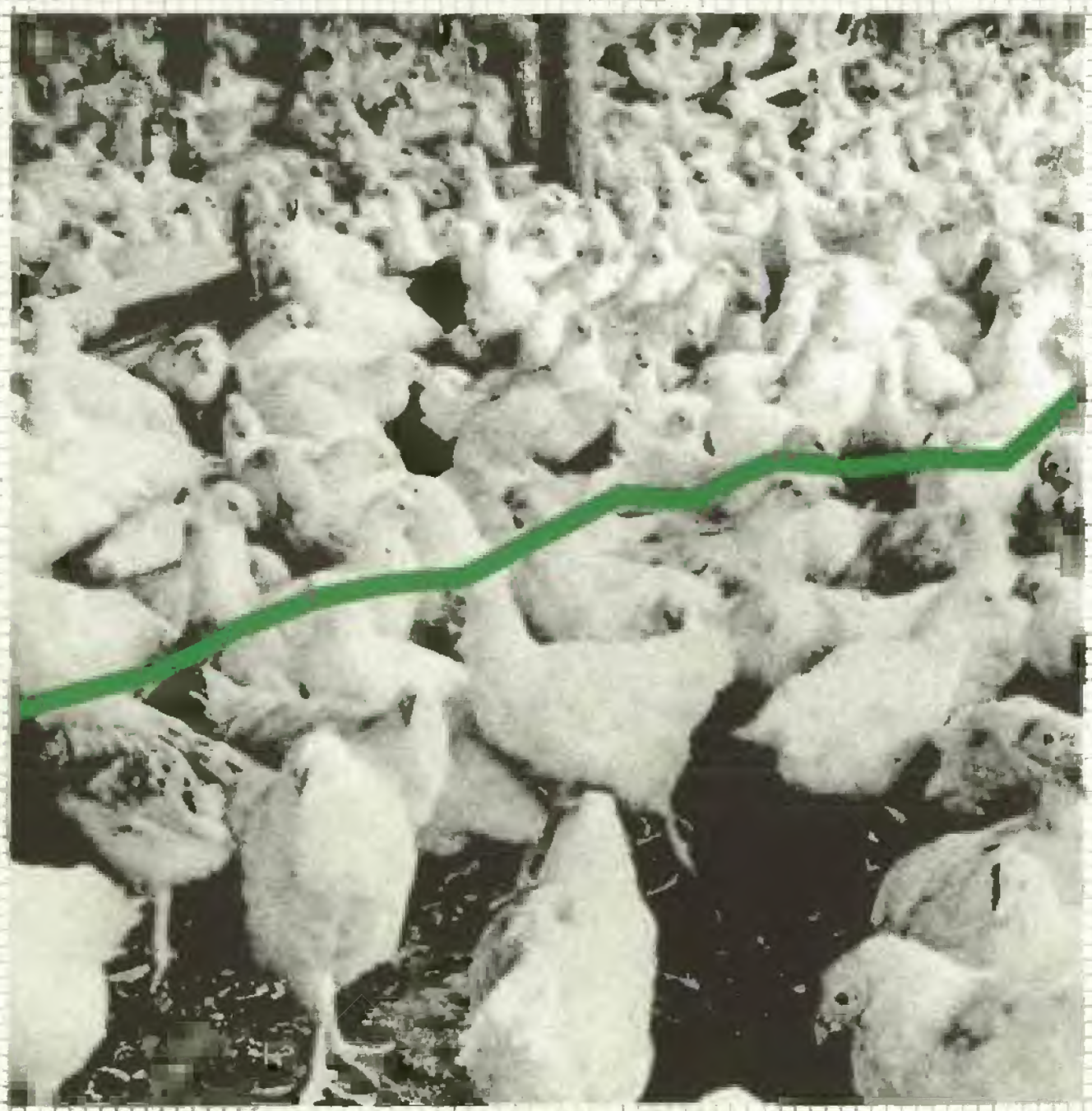
AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE • AO-15



BROILER MEAT PRODUCTION (1962 TO ESTIMATED 1976)

OCTOBER 1976

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GRAIN SUPPLIES TIGHTEN, BUT STILL NEAR 1975'S BIG LEVELS

The major change during recent weeks affecting the agricultural outlook has been the weather damage to U.S. crops. Likely cuts in corn, sorghum, soybean, and cotton production will tighten supply prospects from earlier indications. The change firms price and income prospects for grains and soybeans, compared with earlier expectations based on larger grain and soybean production.

Although relatively large grain crops still are anticipated, recent tightening crop supplies could affect projected export levels and the feeding and production plans of livestock and poultry producers.

Despite recent weather damage, the corn crop will likely be record large and estimated total tonnage of feed grains matches the large 1975 crop. Moreover, a record wheat supply with relatively low wheat prices is encouraging big increases in wheat feeding in the United States and in many other countries around the world.

Placement of cattle on feed, pig crops, and the broiler hatch point to continued large supplies of livestock and products through the rest of 1976 and into 1977. Although beef production will probably drop below year-earlier levels by early 1977, larger output of pork and broilers will be more than offsetting. Total meat production should be up around 5 to 6 percent from a year earlier in October-December, with year-to-year increases narrowing in the first quarter of 1977. Milk and egg production is expected to continue above a year ago early next year.

The foreign demand picture for U.S. farm products apparently was not changed by events of recent weeks. Larger world crops are indicated despite further damage to crops in Europe and we still expect export volume in 1976/77 to slip slightly below the record volume moved in 1975/76. However, if prices for feed commodities recover some from recent easing because of deterioration in U.S. crops, we could see some shaving of our export volume. However, the value of exports is likely to be close to fiscal 1976's $22.1 billion.

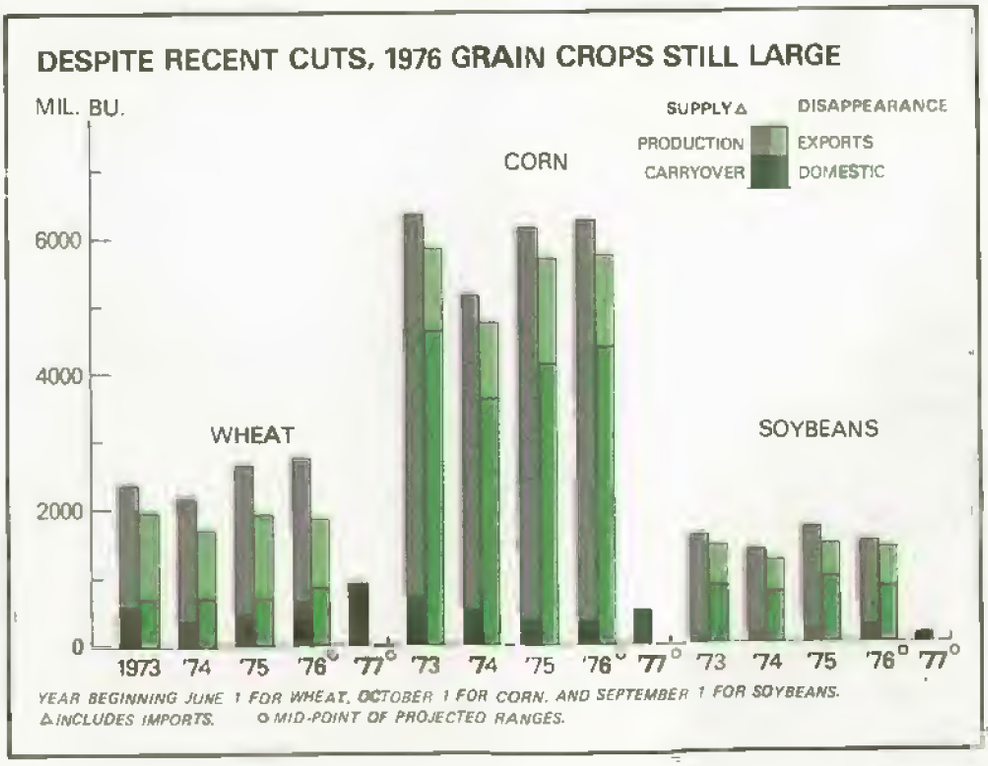
At this point, the feeding decisions that U.S. livestock and poultry producers must make this fall with higher feeding costs are of crucial concern. These decisions will determine the production of livestock and products, not only in the near term but well into next year as well. Such adjustments, in turn, will have major impacts on domestic use and exports of grain and soybeans.

Dry weather throughout much of the country this summer took its toll on U.S. crops. Corn, sorghum, soybeans, and cotton, as well as hay and pastures, felt the brunt of this drought, with much of the damage centered in the Great Plains and Western Corn Belt States. The overall 1976 crop production index as of September 1 was expected to be down about 3 percent from last year's record. However, the feed grain crop is likely to be as large as the big 1975 crop. As a result, grain supplies should be adequate, but at modestly higher prices than were projected at an earlier point in the year.

As of September 1, corn production was estimated at 5.9 billion bushels, about 5 percent less than on August 1, as hot, dry weather reduced yield prospects. Despite this recent damage, the corn crop is still expected to be record large, some 2 percent above 1975. The soybean crop estimate was also pulled down 5 percent during August, and September 1 output is now estimated at 1.3 billion bushels, down 16 percent from 1975. Somewhat larger carryover stocks will moderate the decline in available soybean supplies, but they will remain tight relative to demand. Cotton production will likely be up a fourth from last year's low level. Despite a drop in winter wheat output, a much larger spring wheat harvest will push the wheat crop to a record 2.1 billion bushels. Coupled with larger carryover stocks, total wheat supplies in 1976/77 could be up around a tenth from a year earlier.

The domestic livestock industry is the major user of feed grains and soybeans by a wide margin. But the large export market is an essential outlet for U.S. grains and feeds, taking roughly a third of U.S. grain and a half of U.S. soybean production.

Foreign developments in recent weeks have pretty much been offsetting in terms of their impact on our exports. As a result, our export prospects for 1976/77 have not changed much from earlier estimates. The greatly improved USSR grain crop will ease Soviet demand for imported grain. However, the Soviets will still be pushing to rebuild depleted stocks. Also, the U.S.-USSR grain agreement calls for the USSR to purchase 6 to 8 million tons of corn and wheat during the year beginning October 1.



Additionally, further deterioration in Europe's crop conditions tends to offset the impact of slackening Soviet sales.

Increases In Domestic Feeding May Slacken

Livestock output and feed use of grain will continue to expand in the 1976/77 feeding year, but gains will be smaller than the relatively rapid expansion in the past year. The increase in feeding of feed grains and wheat combined may total around half the 12-percent increase of the 1975/76 feeding year. Short supplies of soybean meal and high prices will likely reduce feed use from the very high rate of 1975/76. Even so, use of high protein feed per animal unit would still be pretty much on trend.

Cattle feeders have generally been in a loss position all year and the increase in placements has slowed. Hog and broiler production continues to expand. Hog producers intend to boost the fall's pig crop 15 to 20 percent, but feeding margins have narrowed which may bring some shading of production plans for 1977. Broiler producers show no signs of slowing output gains. Milk producers have stepped up grain feeding and production has been booming. Although milk output may continue to expand during the rest of 1976 and into 1977, gains are likely to slacken some from the big increases so far this year.

WORLD CROP PRODUCTION STILL HEADED UP

The 1976-77 world wheat and coarse grain crop is still expected to reach a record high, about 7 percent above the 1975-76 crop of 980 million metric tons. Prospects for the Soviet grain crop improved during the summer, but problems developed in other areas. The world rice crop is expected to total slightly below the 1975-76 crop. With larger world grain crops, U.S. grain exports will likely decline some from the record rates in 1975-76, perhaps by as much as 10 percent. Smaller exports are expected to the USSR, South Asia, and Brazil but increases are expected to most other regions, in part due to relatively small world grain carryover stocks.

The 1976 Soviet total grain crop now appears likely to reach their goal of about 205 million tons. The outlook for spring wheat and barley has improved markedly. Weather in the USSR generally continued rainy and cool during July and early August. Good precipitation fell over several important areas that frequently suffer from moisture shortages.

Soviet net grain imports may total around 11 million tons in 1976-77, down from 25 million last year.

The latest assessment of West European grain output projects a crop almost 10 percent below the 135-million-ton average of the last 5 years. Coarse grain output has been hit harder by the drought than has wheat. France—West Europe's largest grain producer—will have a crop about two-thirds of normal. Net grain imports of about 34 million tons are expected for Western Europe, up from 19 million a year earlier.

The drought spread into Eastern Europe where hot, dry weather this summer followed a period of low soil moisture. East Europe's 1976 grain crop will be about 5 percent below last year's disappointing harvest, and their imports are expected to increase.

In South Asia, the 1976 monsoon lagged behind last year's performance, and the rice harvest will probably be smaller. However, U.S. grain exports to the region are expected to decrease in 1976-77 because of large government stocks in India, as well as port congestion and lack of storage facilities in Bangladesh.

Large exportable supplies and severe import restrictions are highlighting the world meat siutation in 1976. Beef and veal production may rise more than a tenth in the major exporting countries. Red meat output will be up a little in the United States and Canada, while down slightly in Japan. In the European Community, meat production will probably decline marginally from 1975. So far, the drought has not caused extensive distress slaughter.

Meat production in industrial facilities in the Soviet Union has continued to decline. January-August 1976 output totaled 4.5 million tons, compared with 5.8 million tons a year earlier and 5.1 million tons 2 years earlier. This sharp decline is due to unusually poor feed supplies from the 1975 season, heavy livestock slaughter in 1975, and good pasture and forage crop development this year. January-August 1976 meat output was inflated by some distress slaughter recently during the months of July and August.

Reported Soviet purchases of meat thus far in 1976 have been surprisingly low, equal to only about a fourth of annual imports in the past 2 years. This is particularly surprising in view of the fact that domestic meat production is expected to be more than a tenth less than in 1975. The low level of purchases this year is probably due mainly to recent Soviet hard-currency trade deficits. (Sally Breedlove).

WORLD OUTPUT OF MAJOR GRAINS

Commodity	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76[1]	1976/77[2]
	Mil. metric tons			
Wheat	372.3	356.4	348.9	385.7
United States	46.4	48.9	58.1	58.2
Other countries	325.9	307.5	290.8	327.5
Coarse grains[3]	660.0	619.8	631.0	665.3
United States	186.7	150.5	184.1	184.1
Other countries	473.3	469.3	446.9	481.2
Rice, milled basis	219.0	223.5	238.7	231.2
United States	3.0	3.7	4.2	3.6
Other countries	216.0	219.8	234.5	227.6
Total grains	1,251.3	1,199.7	1,218.6	1,282.2
United States	236.1	203.1	246.4	245.9
Other countries	1,015.2	996.6	972.2	1,036.3

[1] Estimated. [2] Forecast; for U.S., mid-point of projected range. [3] Corn, oats, barley, sorghum, rye, millet, and mixed grains. Note: World data as of September 15.

Tightening Crop Supplies May Moderate Usual Harvesttime Price Decline

The tighter supply-demand conditions will likely strengthen crop prices, especially for feed grains and soybeans. Farm prices of livestock and products have been trending down since last spring under pressure of big gains in production. Fed cattle and hog prices have registered sizable drops.

Prices paid by farmers for production inputs held fairly steady in recent months, with prices currently averaging around 6 percent above a year ago. Feed prices have been declining but remain above a year earlier. Feeder livestock prices continued to ease, although prices averaged well above a year ago. Prices of most other inputs were running above comparable 1975 months.

The major developments that will be influencing farmers' decisions regarding the use of inputs in coming months include: the rising cost of farm machinery, higher fuel prices, the possible prohibition of some pesticides, the uncertain situation with respect to nitrogen fertilizer, and relatively high-cost loans. Although no major shocks are anticipated in the input markets, any significant changes become factors in decisionmaking.

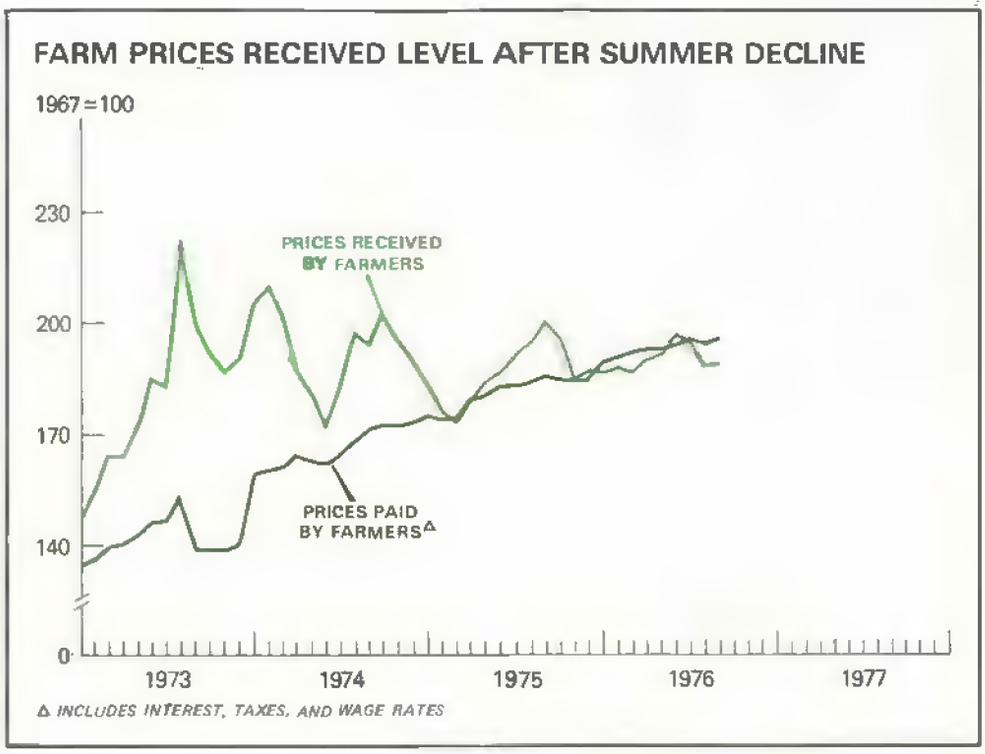
Continued Economic Recovery Boosts Demand For Food

Prospects continue favorable for further economic recovery from the most severe recession in the past quarter century. The reasonably well-balanced recovery has proceeded about as in earlier recoveries with increases in consumer buying, some inventory rebuilding, gains in industrial production, and an upturn in residential construction. Employment has been on the upswing, too, although the unemployment rate has continued relatively high.

Consumer incomes continue to rise. Real per capita disposable income is likely to be up 3 to 3½ percent this year, with the current dollar value up nearly a tenth. This should add up to continued expansion in consumer demand for food and other farm products in the coming year.

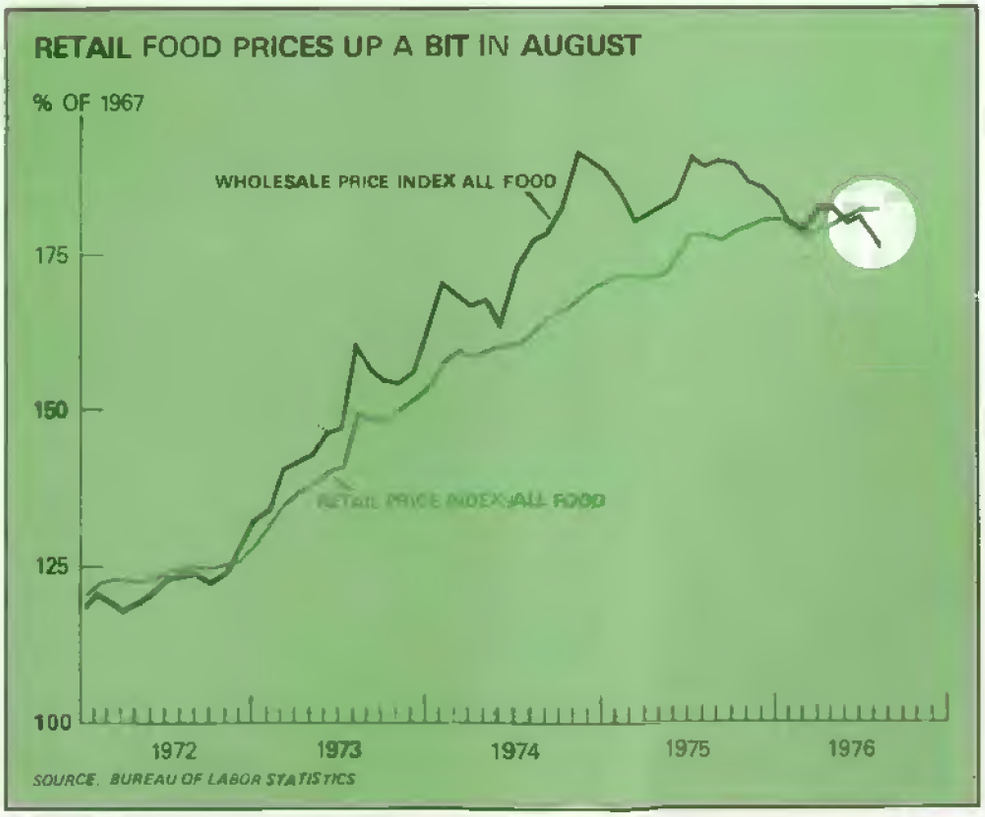
Agriculture has played a key role in the current economic recovery, and agricultural exports have been a major factor in the favorable trade balance. For example, in fiscal 1976 the $12-billion net agricultural trade balance more than offset an $8-billion deficit for nonagricultural items.

Easing food prices have also moderated inflationary pressures in the past year. Retail prices of all items in August were up around 5½ percent from a year ago. However, while prices of nonfood commodities were up 6½ percent, food prices rose only 2½ percent from August 1975.



Food Prices Almost Level in August

Retail food prices rose just a bit in August to a level only about 2½ percent above a year ago—with prices of food at home up about 1 percent. On the other hand, food-away-from-home prices were up 7 percent from August 1975. Food prices will likely hold relatively steady in coming months and may close out the year around 2 percent above a year ago. Recent easing in central market prices for livestock and prospects for a continued large output of meat, poultry, and milk suggest that retail food prices in 1976 are now likely to average about 3 percent over last year, the smallest annual increase since 1971 and less than half the rise in prices of nonfood products.



FOOD AND MARKETING

Wholesale food prices dropped in August, but retail prices rose a little. The Wholesale Price Index for all food averaged 7 percent below August 1975, compared with a 6-percent advance for industrial commodities. The 2½-percent drop from July largely reflected a 12-percent decline for pork and a 7-percent drop for fish. Sugar and sweets were down 8 percent. Beef, poultry, and cereal and bakery products were also down.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all foods in August edged up 0.2 percent from July. A 0.5-percent increase for meals eaten in restaurants and for snacks accounted for most of the rise as grocery store prices increased only slightly. Compared with August 1975, the at-home food index averaged 1 percent higher, the lowest year-to-year increment in 5½ years. Retail prices for food away from home averaged 7 percent higher, leaving the all food average about 2½ percent above a year earlier. The CPI for all items less food was a little less than 7 percent above August 1975.

An expansion in the output of meat and poultry products and seasonally ample supplies of most other foods held grocery food prices relatively steady from July to August. Retail beef and pork prices declined about 1½ percent while poultry was nearly 2½ percent lower. Bakery and cereal, fresh vegetables, and fats and oils also were lower. But sharply higher coffee prices and seasonally higher egg and fresh fruit prices were offsetting.

Strengthening demand, higher marketing costs, and relatively tight supplies for a few products such as coffee and some fishery items likely will exert continued upward pressure on retail food prices in coming months. But further expansion in output of meat (primarily pork) and poultry and ample supplies of most crop foods are expected to limit price increases if U.S. and world harvests turn out about as now expected.

Retail food prices for the July-September quarter probably have averaged a little above the spring quarter and around 2 percent above a year earlier. If current crop prospects are realized and livestock output expands as expected, fourth quarter food prices may be little changed from the third quarter and remain around 2 percent above the last quarter of 1975. With the year-to-year price difference narrowing from around 5 percent earlier this year, the average for the entire year likely will be around 3 percent above 1975, which will end up as the smallest annual increase in food prices since 1971.

Per Capita Food Consumption Higher

Per capita food consumption for all of 1976 likely will be up around 2½ percent from last year and may exceed the record high of 1972 by a small margin. While this year's increase mainly reflects more ample supplies, it also reflects stronger demand associated with improved domestic economic conditions. Most of the increase in consumption will be associated with a nearly 5½-percent rise for red meats and a 9-percent increase for poultry. Fish consumption may be about 2 percent higher, with dairy product use up slightly and egg consumption about equal to last year.

Among crop food categories, sugar use may rise about 6 percent from last year's depressed level and vegetable oil consumption may be up about a tenth. Fruit and vegetable consumption also may be slightly higher. These increases should more than offset declines indicated for fresh potatoes and coffee, leaving total consumption of crop food higher for the year. (Larry Summers and Anthony Gallo)

PER CAPITA FOOD CONSUMPTION INDEXES

Year	Animal products	Crops	All food
	1967=100		
1970	102.5	103.1	102.8
1971	103.8	102.8	103.3
1972	103.6	104.1	103.8
1973	99.1	105.3	101.9
1974	101.7	103.8	102.6
1975	99.8	103.9	101.6
1976	103.1	105.4	104.3

Market Basket Update

Farm-retail spreads for a market basket[1] of farm foods increased 1.3 percent from July to August as returns to farmers decreased more than retail prices. The farm value of these foods dropped 2.4 percent while retail prices dropped only 0.2 percent. Marketing spreads have risen steadily since April following some small declines earlier this year.

Marketing spreads, which include charges for assembling, processing, transporting, and distributing market basket foods, increased substantially from July to August for pork, oilseed products, and bakery and cereal products, as returns to farmers dropped sharply for these products. Spreads increased only moderately for most other foods. However, spreads decreased for beef, eggs, and some fresh vegetables.

The farm-retail spread in August was about 6 percent wider than a year earlier. This reflected an almost 10-percent drop in the farm value of foods while the retail cost declined only about 0.5 percent.

The farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar spent in retail food stores for farm foods was 39 cents in August, 1 cent below July and 4 cents below a year earlier. (Henry Badger)

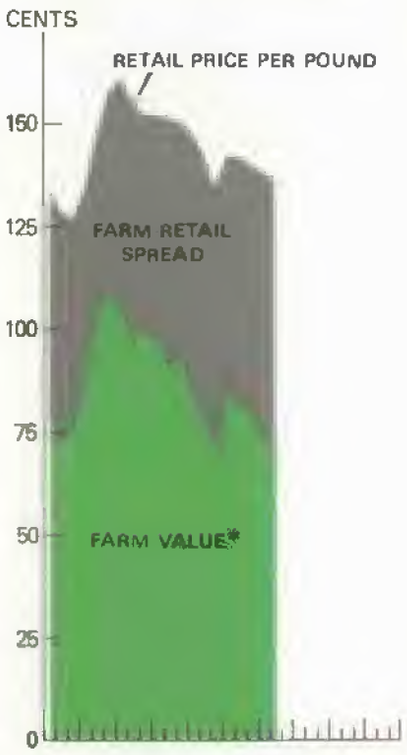
Marketing Spreads for Beef and Pork Up Sharply In Past Year

Beef and pork prices at the supermarket are down from last year, but not as much as cattle and hog prices on the farm. As a result, price spreads between the farmer and the consumer are up sharply. August farm-retail spreads compared with a year earlier were 7 percent wider for beef and 24 percent wider for pork.

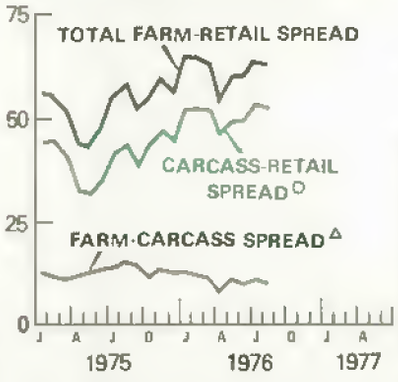
Farm-retail spreads for beef, although down slightly from July to August, are still very near the record high levels reached in the first 3 months of 1976

[1]The market basket represents the average quantities of U.S. farm-originated foods purchased annually per household in 1960-61. Retail cost of these foods is based on an index of retail prices for domestically produced farm foods, a component of the Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The farm value is the payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of food products minus allowances for byproducts. The farm-retail spread is the difference between the retail cost and farm value

RETAIL BEEF PRICES LAG FARM PRICE DECLINE . . .



. . . SPREADS NEAR RECORD



* PAYMENT TO FARMER FOR 2.28 LBS. CHOICE STEER LESS ALLOWANCE FOR BYPRODUCTS.

○ CHARGES FOR IN-CITY DELIVERY, WHOLESALING AND RETAILING.

△ CHARGES FOR MARKETING, SLAUGHTERING, CURING, PROCESSING, AND SHIPPING

when cattle prices also dropped below $40 per 100 pounds. Likewise, marketing spreads for pork are approaching the high levels reached last fall when hog prices broke sharply from the September record. Narrower farm-retail spreads could help move larger supplies of cattle and hogs to market as well as reduce prices to consumers.

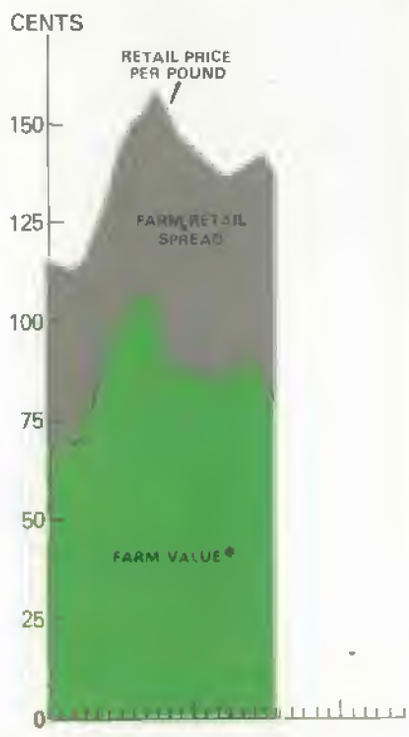
Retail prices for Choice beef averaged $1.35 a pound in August—20 cents a pound lower than in August 1975. Except for a temporary spurt last April, prices dropped in every month of this 12-month period. With cattle prices down from a year earlier about $10 per 100 pounds in August, the farm value of the 2¼ pounds of live cattle equivalent to a pound of retail cuts of Choice beef decreased 24 cents. Thus the farm-retail spread widened by about 4 cents. All of the increase was in the carcass-retail component, which includes charges for in-city delivery, wholesaling, and retailing. In contrast, the farm-carcass spread decreased as the volume of cattle slaughtered increased. This component includes charges for marketing, slaughtering, curing, processing, and shipping beef, and it often decreases as slaughter rises.

For pork, farm-retail spreads rose sharply from July to August as the sharp drop in hog prices was only partially reflected at retail. Some lag in the adjustment of retail prices is probably explainable by the actual time lapse in moving pork products through the marketing system. Hog prices, which averaged about $48 per 100 pounds in July, dropped to $44 in August. As a result, the farm value of the almost 2 pounds of live hogs equivalent to a pound of pork cuts at retail dropped almost 8 cents to 79 cents a pound. In contrast, the retail price of pork, at $1.37 per pound, was about 5 cents below the July price. Consequently, the farm-retail spread increased 3 cents.

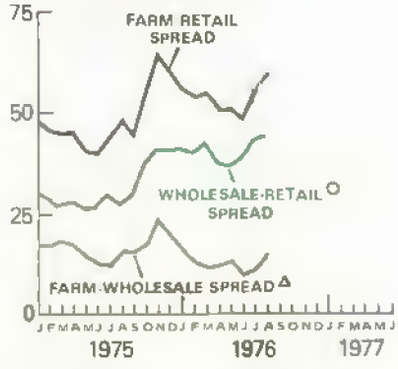
Farm-retail price spreads for pork have widened about 11 cents a pound since August 1975 as the farm value for pork dropped almost twice as much as the retail price. The August spread for pork of 59 cents is only a few cents under the record level reached last fall following the sharp break in hog prices. All of the increase from a year ago was in the wholesale-retail component.

Price spreads for beef are expected to move in the opposite direction from pork this fall. Farm-retail spreads for beef may decrease this fall as beef output remains large. However, further weakening in hog prices may produce an opposite reaction as decreases at retail lag behind and farm-retail spreads widen to record levels in the months ahead before beginning to taper off. (Henry Badger).

RETAIL PORK PRICES LAG FARM PRICE DECLINE . . .



. . . AS SPREADS WIDEN



* PAYMENT TO FARMER FOR 1.97 LB. LIVE HOG LESS ALLOWANCE FOR BYPRODUCTS.

○ CHARGE FOR IN-CITY DELIVERY, WHOLESALING AND RETAILING.

△ CHARGE FOR MARKETING, SLAUGHTERING, CURING, PROCESSING, AND SHIPPING.

Profit Rates for Food Chains, Manufacturers, and Meatpackers Reported

Latest Federal Trade Commission data reveal that first quarter 1976 profits for large food chains declined from those recorded for the fourth quarter of 1975. Profits were the lowest of any of the past seven quarters for which comparable data are available with the exception of the lose in the first quarter of 1975. First quarter 1976 profits after taxes were $86 million or 7.2 percent of stockholders' equity. This compares with 11.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 1975.

In contrast, after-tax profits of 10 leading meatpackers rose to $101 million in the first 6 months of 1976, representing 11.5 percent of stockholders' equity on an annual basis. This represents a substantial increase from year-earlier profits of $77 million and a return on equity of 9.9 percent. Although profits of meatpackers have risen recently, there has been considerable fluctuation in profits over the past 2½ years, as livestock supplies and prices fluctuated widely. This is evidenced by the quarter-to-quarter range in returns on equity of 8 to 15 percent. First half 1976 profits of the 10 meatpacking firms reported were over 3 percentage points below the 14.8-percent average of all manufacturing firms. Financial data for meatpackers, all food manufacturers, and food chains are shown in the accompanying table. (Henry Badger and Denis Dunham)

FINANCIAL DATA FOR FOOD INDUSTRY FIRMS

Year and quarter	Sales	Net profit after taxes	Stockholder's equity	Profit to sales	Profit to equity
	$ Mil.			Pct.	
			Food Chains[1]		
1974					
III	14,223	129	4,425	0.9	11.7
IV	14,230	139	4,582	1.0	12.1
1975					
I	14,357	-61	4,427	-.4	-5.5
II	14,523	118	4,494	.8	10.5
III	14,834	113	4,561	.8	9.9
IV	15,522	133	4,700	.9	11.3
1976					
I	15,393	86	4,579	.6	7.2
			Food Manufacturers[2]		
1974					
I	36,806	979	31,668	2.7	12.4
II	38,499	1,038	32,461	2.7	12.8
III	40,725	1,313	34,109	3.2	15.4
IV	42,232	1,271	34,504	3.0	14.7
1975					
I	37,880	920	34,260	2.4	10.7
II	40,281	1,315	35,169	3.3	15.0
III	41,683	1,561	36,336	3.7	17.2
IV	42,247	1,358	37,315	3.2	14.6
1976					
I	41,062	1,263	38,031	3.1	13.3
II	43,131	1,595	39,064	3.7	16.3
			Meatpackers[3]		
1974					
I	3,581	42	1,410	1.2	11.9
II	3,648	36	1,431	1.0	10.0
III	3,609	45	1,463	1.3	12.4
IV	3,769	49	1,512	1.3	13.1
1975					
I	3,633	33	1,529	.9	8.5
II	3,582	44	1,589	1.2	11.1
III	3,968	39	1,616	1.0	9.7
IV	4,228	63	1,671	1.5	15.2
1976					
I	4,071	47	1,729	1.2	10.9
II	4,109	54	1,779	1.3	12.2

Source: [1] Federal Trade Commission. The data are based on reports from all food retailing corporations having more than $100 million in annual sales, and whose activities are at least 75 percent specialized in supermarket operations. [2] "Quarterly Financial Report," Federal Trade Commission. Data represent national aggregate estimates for corporations based upon a sample of company reports. [3] "Moody's Industrial Manual" and other public reports. Data for 10 leading firms.

FOOD AND FIBER SYSTEM OVERVIEW

An award-winning overview of the U.S. food and fiber system is now available from USDA's Economic Research Service. The publication, *The Food and Fiber System—How It Works*, explains the structure and performance of the system that plays such an important role in our industrial economy. With the aid of numerous charts and tables, the report examines the input, farm, product market, and consumer sectors of the food and fiber system.

Copies of *The Food and Fiber System—How It Works*, Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 383, are available free by postcard (please include zip code) or telephone (202-447-7255) from the Publications Unit, Economic Research Service, Room 0054, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

COMMODITIES

Further deterioration in the corn, sorghum, soybean, and cotton crops during the late summer will tighten supplies from earlier crop prospects which will likely curb use and strengthen prices from earlier expectations.

Right now, with livestock prices continuing weak, the brunt of the latest cuts may be borne by domestic users. The mid-September reading of the supply and demand situation suggested 1976/77 corn and soybean meal feeding might be lower than earlier expected. Export projections, in contrast, remained unchanged in part because of the big stepup in the import needs of Europe. (For a complete rundown of the supply and demand estimates for major crops, see page 30 of the Statistical Indicators section.)

The tight feed supplies raise a big question for livestock producers: Just how will feed costs be affected and how long will producers be willing or able to stick to their plans for boosting production when caught in a tightening cost-price squeeze? Current reports indicate that production of most livestock and products is still headed up, although recently farmers may have begun to temper their expansion plans.

Feed Grain Supplies Remain Large

The September 1 forecast was for a corn crop of 5.9 billion bushels, 5 percent below the August 1 estimate but still 2 percent above the 1975 record harvest. However, with each of the other feed grains (sorghum, oats, and barley) likely to be down, total feed grain production this year is estimated the same as in 1975. The feed grain supply for 1976/77 would be almost 220 million short tons, virtually the same as in 1975/76 because of little change in carryover stocks.

More grain is expected to be fed in the United States in 1976/77 than a year earlier, largely because of some further increases in hog and broiler production. Also, high prices will curb protein feeding relative to grain. But the increase will be quite modest for feed grains, only about 2 percent, versus the 12-percent increase estimated for 1975/76. However, an expected large increase in wheat feeding could boost total grain feeding around 5 percent in 1976/77.

Domestic feed use in 1976/77 hinges in large measure on how many cattle are placed on feed and how long they are fed, as well as on how the current expansion phase in pork production unfolds. The amount of livestock feeding and red meat production will have a bearing on prices of poultry products which, in turn, will affect feed used by poultry producers.

The cattle inventory on July 1 was smaller than a year earlier and points to reduced beef production capacity in the next several years. But the number of cattle and calves on hand that could be placed on feed during the rest of 1976 and in early 1977 is still large. Also, shortages of hay and forage in some areas may force large marketings of cattle directly to slaughter or into feedlots this fall.

Here lies the major question concerning feeding in 1976/77: How many will be placed on feed and how many will go directly, or with minimal feeding, to slaughter?

Feed grain exports in 1976/77 may run about a tenth below the record large 55 million short tons estimated for 1975/76. Smaller exports reflect larger Soviet crops and smaller prospective USSR purchases. Larger purchases by drought-stricken European countries likely will be partly offsetting.

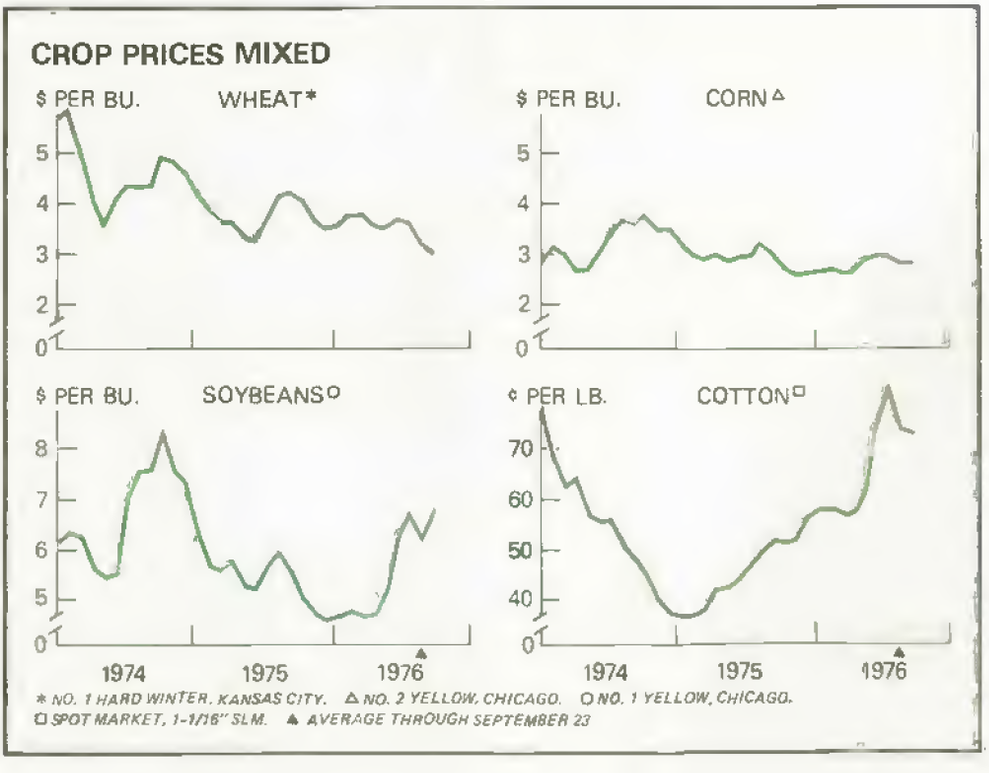
Record Large Wheat Supply Increases Feed Use

With the buildup in carryover stocks of wheat in the past 2 years and the 1976 crop estimated at 2.1 billion bushels, the fourth successive record harvest, the wheat supply for 1976/77 is estimated at 2.9 billion bushels, the largest since the early 1960's.

Current estimates are for domestic food use of 530-550 million bushels, a shade under the 559 million in 1975/76. But substantially more wheat will likely be used for domestic feeding in 1976/77.

Wheat feeding fluctuates sharply from one year to another, depending on prices in relation to feed grains and levels of livestock and poultry feeding. The bulk of wheat feeding is done in areas of heavy livestock feeding which are surplus in wheat production and deficit in feed grain production. Since July, wheat prices in relation to feed grains have favored wheat feeding in many of those areas. As a result, wheat feeding in 1976/77 is projected at 150-200 million bushels, about double the levels of the past 2 years.

Wheat exports are not likely to be as large as the exports of 1,173 million bushels in 1975/76 in light of the considerably larger supplies in prospect in importing and exporting countries this marketing year.



On balance, total use will probably be less than the 1976 crop. This would result in another increase in carryover stocks next May 31, the third successive increase.

With large supplies, wheat prices have come under pressure after an early season advance. For 1976/77, prices are expected to average around a tenth less than the $3.52 per bushel at the farm in 1975/76.

Tight Soybean Supplies Will Restrict Crush and Exports

As September saw the 1976 soybean crop estimate pared down to about 1.3 billion bushels, off from around 1.5 billion bushels last year, forecasters also lowered their sights for domestic use and exports in 1976/77.

Total disappearance in 1976/77 is now estimated at about 1.4 billion bushels, about 120 million more than production. Around 785 million bushels are expected to be crushed domestically, down sharply from the record 866 million crushed in 1975/76. Some slowdown in the domestic use of both soybean oil and meal will tend to dampen the bean crush.

Soybean exports this year may total around 525 million bushels, down moderately from the record 555 million estimated for last year. Despite smaller soybean supplies and higher prices, exports are expected to remain relatively high, due to strong foreign demand for soybean meal, particularly in drought-stricken Europe. Also, Soviet purchases of new crop soybeans, which could result in U.S. exports to that country of as much as 55 million bushels, will help bolster exports.

Because of the strong demand and reduced supplies, soybean stocks will be worked down sharply. Carryout stocks on August 31, 1977 may drop to around 125 million bushels, roughly half the 244-million-bushel carryover of September 1, 1976. Such a stock level would be approximately 1 month's requirement for crush and exports.

On the meal side, 1976/77 supplies will likely total around 19 million tons, down about a tenth from 1975/76 due to reduced production. Domestic disappearance is expected to slip some from the 15½ million tons of 1975/76 as relatively high prices restrict soybean meal use. However, cottonseed meal disappearance is expected to be up about a fourth, thus tending to temper the decline in total oilseed meal use. Also, price relationships point to heavier grain feeding such as a corn-urea mix. Exports probably will total around 4½ million tons, down from 5.1 million.

With tight supplies, soybean meal prices will be high. During September, soybean meal prices (44 percent protein, Decatur) averaged about a third above last September's $134 per ton. For the season, prices are expected to average well above the $147 now estimated for 1975/76. (Stanley A. Gazelle)

Pork Production Will Continue To Increase

High feed costs in prospect and declining hog prices will cut into pork producers' profits. Still, the larger pig crop reported for the June-August period and the planned increase in the number of sows to farrow this fall will assure year-to-year increases in pork production through the spring of 1977.

The September 1 Hogs and Pigs report, covering 14 major hog-producing States, indicated a 21-percent increase in the number of pigs farrowed during the summer and points to a 16-percent increase in September-November farrowings. The September-November plans represent some backing off from the 19-percent increase producers were aiming for on June 1. Stronger feed prices and lower prices received for slaughter hogs apparently gave some producers second thoughts about continued expansion.

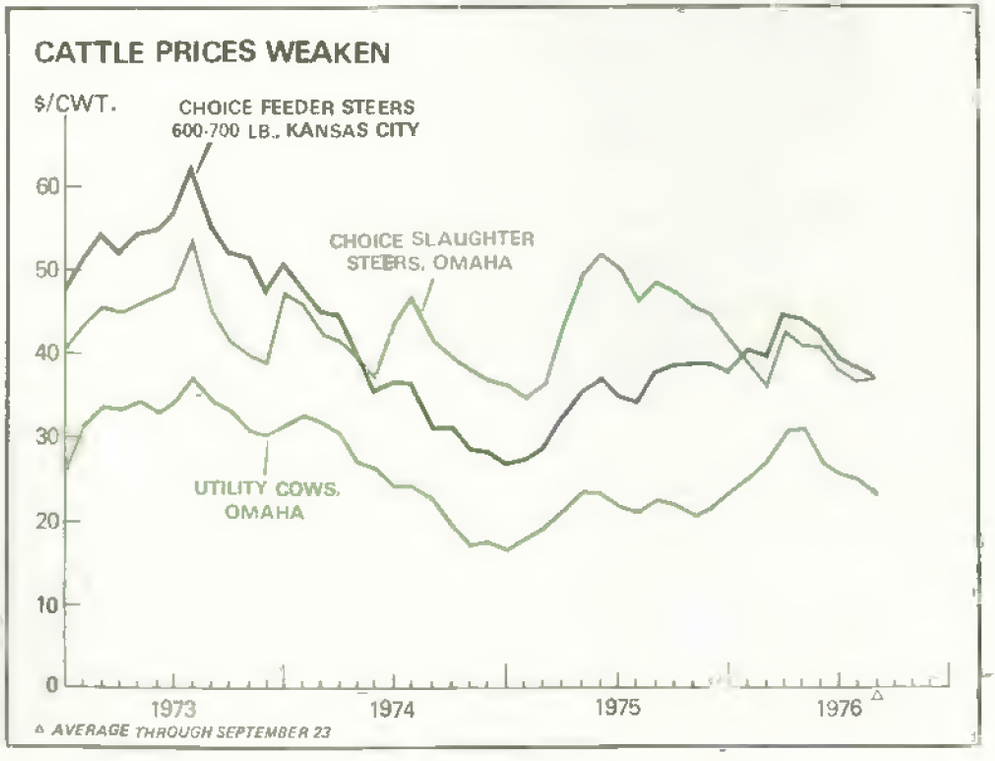
If actual farrowings are near the levels indicated, slaughter during the first half of 1977 could be 17 to 19 percent above a year earlier. First quarter slaughter will likely exceed 20 million head. A small seasonal reduction in slaughter is expected during the spring. Both quarterly totals will likely be larger than during October-December of this year when around 19½ million head of hogs may move to slaughter.

Total red meat supplies in the first half of 1977, while down from the last half of this year, should still be up moderately from a year earlier. Broiler output will probably be above 1976 levels. The supply prospects for pork and other meats suggest some weakening in hog prices during the first half of next year. Barrows and gilts at seven markets may average in the upper $30's per 100 pounds in early 1977, down a little from fall prices. (Eldon Ball)

Slower Rise in Feedlot Placements Likely

Feedlot placements have slowed in recent months reflecting the generally unprofitable position of feeding cattle. Placements had shown little gain in the second quarter this year following year-to-year increases averaging almost 25 percent during the year ending with March 1976. Although August placements in the seven reporting States rose 10 percent from a year ago, the number of cattle moving onto feed in 23 States during the July-September quarter may only about equal the 5.8 million placed last year.

While the midyear inventory of feeder cattle was estimated to be 5 percent fewer than last year's record high, supplies of yearling cattle, weighing 500 pounds and over, outside feedlots were 4 percent greater. These cattle could contribute to a significant seasonal increase in feedlot placements this fall. Dry weather and deteriorating pasture conditions in many areas of the Midwest have apparently accelerated the movement of feeder cattle and calves in recent weeks. Some of these cattle will move directly to slaughter. Although



expected to increase seasonally, this fall's nonfed slaughter will likely run short of last year's record level. Prospects for winter wheat pasture late this fall are not encouraging, and the high cost of supplemental feeding makes carrying cattle over to 1977 an unattractive alternative. Many of these cattle will likely move to feedlots.

If placements are also near year-earlier levels during October-December, first half 1977 fed cattle marketings could be about the same as in 1976. Fewer nonfeds slaughtered during the first half of 1977 should reduce total slaughter. A large percentage of fed cattle in the slaughter mix will hold beef production relatively high but probably less than in 1976. Fed cattle prices should be much improved, with seasonal reductions in nonfed slaughter expected to push market prices for fed cattle into the mid-$40's per 100 pounds next spring, up from around $41 per 100 pounds a year earlier.

Cattle feeders in 23 States indicated on July 1 they planned to market around 6 million fed cattle during the summer quarter, an increase of about 20 percent over the summer of 1975. Fed marketings in the seven States, which generally account for 70 to 75 percent of all fed marketings, totaled 3.1 million head during July and August, 30 percent above a year earlier.

The heavy movement of grain fed cattle over the past several weeks seems unlikely to persist, and the pace of marketings should slow later this year. The on-feed inventory of steers and heifers in the middle weight groups on July 1 points to a fed slaughter this fall moderately below third quarter volume but continuing well above a year ago. The seasonal reduction in fed slaughter should add some strength to the fed market, with prices expected to move close to the $40 mark during the fall quarter. (Eldon Ball)

Milk Production Continues Whopping Gains This Summer

Supplies of milk and dairy products probably will be larger than a year ago during the rest of 1976. Milk production is expected to continue expanding (although the year-to-year gains by the end of 1976 may be much smaller than the big increases this summer) and commercial stocks are large, as milk output moves toward its seasonal low. However, the impact of the heavier supplies may be largely offset if demand remains strong.

Gains from a year earlier in milk output accelerated to almost 6 percent in August, after an almost 5-percent increase in July. Relatively favorable milk-feed price relationships in prospect this fall likely will keep output above a year ago, but year-to-year gains may slip to 2 percent or less by the end of the year. For all of 1976, milk production could be up about 3 percent from 1975, the sharpest rise in over 25 years.

The increased milk output this summer sharply boosted the amount of milk available for manufacturing, as fluid sales were close to 1975. American cheese production in August was more than a third higher than a year ago and butter output was up an eighth. Production of both butter and cheese in coming months probably will run above year-earlier levels. Increases in cheese output generally will outpace rises in butter production, although this will be determined by the relative sales strength and stock positions.

Commercial stocks of dairy products had grown to 6.9 billion pounds milk equivalent on August 1, up a fourth from last year's relatively low levels, with butter and cheese both much larger. While holdings of most dairy products are not burdensome, they probably will be sufficient to meet commercial needs rather handily in coming months.

Wholesale butter and cheese prices have declined in recent weeks reflecting the large jumps in production. However, seasonal declines in milk production and the expected continuation of strong demand may forestall further price declines until early 1977. In any case, wholesale dairy product prices and farm milk prices could be sharply lower in early 1977. (James J. Miller)

USDA RAISES SUPPORT PRICE FOR MILK

Effective October 1, the support price for manufacturing milk was increased 13 cents to $8.26 per 100 pounds, or 80 percent of parity as of that date. The previous $8.13 level had been in effect since April 1, the beginning of the 1976/77 dairy marketing year. Dairy supports were increased to reflect recent changes in farm production costs. Many dairy farmers will have greater than normal costs of production this winter because they have been forced to feed their hay supply as a substitute for pasture during this year's drought.

The Agricultural Act of 1949 requires that milk be supported between 75 and 90 percent of parity, as the Secretary of Agriculture determines necessary to assure an adequate supply.

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) stands ready to purchase—and thus remove from the commercial market—butter, Cheddar cheese, and nonfat dry milk to support average prices received by farmers for manufacturing grade milk. The purchase prices of butter and Cheddar cheese reflect the increased support level as well as an allowance for higher manufacturing costs for dairy products. CCC purchase prices were raised 5 cents for butter to 92.7 cents a pound at New York, and 2 cents for Cheddar cheese to 92.5 cents a pound. Nonfat dry milk purchase prices were not changed from 62.4 cents a pound for nonfortified powder.

Tobacco Loan Stocks To Increase

Flue-cured tobacco growers are receiving record high prices for this season's crop which is 10 percent smaller due to a quota cut and dry weather. The amount of tobacco placed under Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan is down from last season's high level, but there will still be a buildup of CCC loan stocks this year.

Some growers are concerned about trends in support levels and loan stocks that pose problems for the future of the program. Support levels went up nearly 14 percent this season, a rise that outstrips the increase in production costs. Indications are that supports may go up 7 percent next season. The rising support levels have meant that, for a number of years, U.S. tobacco prices have been substantially above those of most foreign competitors, who thus have garnered most of the increase in world tobacco trade.

In 1975 and 1976, about 80 percent of the loan volume has been in the less desirable, low-stalk groupings. (Normally, about 30 percent of the entire crop consists of lower stalk positions—lugs, primings, and nondescript categories—tobaccos that are not as desirable for cigarette manufacture as the more flavorful, heavy bodied upper stalk leaf.) By the end of the marketing year next June 30, loan volume may total 450 to 500 million pounds. While that amount is about average relative to most years in the past decade or so, there is a considerable imbalance of grades in relation to current demand. At present support levels, these tobaccos have little market overseas and U.S. manufacturers can import similar tobaccos more economically.

October 29 is the deadline for submitting views to USDA on the size of the flue-cured quota for 1977. By December 1, USDA must announce the 1977 quota and, shortly afterwards, growers will vote in a referendum on the question of whether they favor allotments on their next three tobacco crops. (Robert H. Miller).

Larger Sugar Supplies Likely

Prospects for 1976/77 world sugar production in excess of consumption and a significant increase in ending stocks recently have exerted downward pressure on sugar prices. World production of sugar may be up around 5 percent from last year despite the European drought. Consumption will rise less rapidly, however, and world sugar prices have been under downward pressure.

U.S. production of sugar rose 30 percent in 1975 encouraged by sharply higher prices in late 1974 and early 1975. But as consumption fell last year, so did sugar prices. Sugar prices in this country had been fairly stable at around $15 per 100 pounds (New York, raw) from late 1975 to mid-1976, but prices recently declined to around $9.60 by mid-September.

U.S. and world sugar prices are likely to remain low until 1977/78 crop prospects are clearer and sugar markets once again assess the price levels which seem consistent with prospective supplies and anticipated demand.

Although U.S. sugarcane production this year may total near 1975, the sugar beet crop may be down around 8 percent, although still the second largest on record. Total domestic sugar output, which accounts for around 60 percent of domestic consumption, may be down some 4 to 6 percent from 1975.

Domestic sugar consumption in calendar 1976 is expected to be up 7 to 8 percent from the low 10-million-ton level in 1975. Use last year was severely depressed by high sugar prices.

A tripling of the U.S. import duty from 62.5 cents to $1.87 per cwt. for raw sugar (96 percent) was announced by the President and became effective on September 21. The effect of this action will be to widen the differential between the world price and the U.S. price of sugar. (Fred Gray)

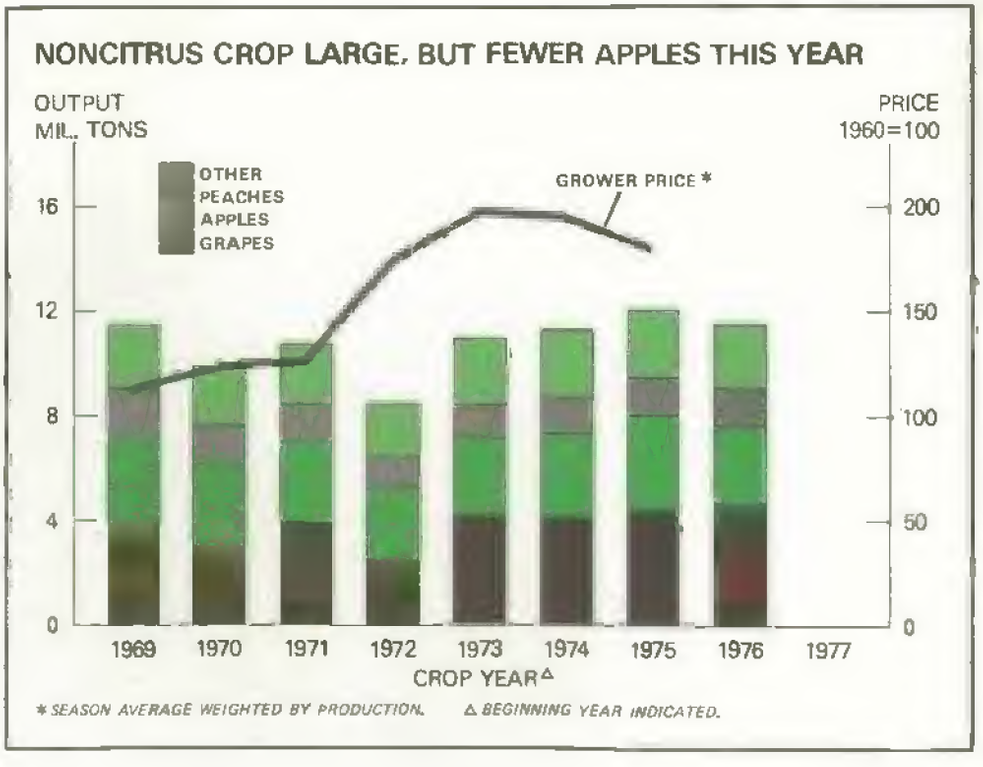
Generally Large Supplies Continue To Dominate Fruit Situation

Supplies of most fresh and processed fruit are expected to remain large in coming months. As of September 1, total 1976 noncitrus production was estimated close to last year's high utilized level. Grapes, cranberries, and pears head the list of larger fall crops this season, while the apple crop is down.

The large supplies of fresh deciduous fruit available this summer were reflected in the marketplace by generally lower prices. Opening f.o.b. prices for apples in the Southeast were substantially lower than a year earlier, but the smaller apple crop has pushed mid-September apple prices higher. Mid-September f.o.b. prices for grapes and California Bartlett pears were above year-earlier levels.

The California pack of canned apricots, peaches, and pears was interrupted by labor disputes in July. The 1976 pack of canned fruits will likely be smaller. However, total supplies of canned fruit will still be large because of sharply larger beginning stocks.

Contract prices or price agreements for most canning fruit in California were negotiated at lower than year-earlier levels, but higher processing and distributing costs could lead to wholesale and retail price hikes this fall. (Jules V. Powell and Ben Huang)



BROILERS: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

by Gerald R. Rector and
William E. Cathcart
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Economic Research Service

In a relatively short time, the broiler business has grown from a byproduct of the egg industry into the highly specialized—and still growing—industry of today. The broiler industry actually dates back to the 1920's, but it remained an infant until after World War II. USDA first reported broiler numbers separately in 1934 when 34 million broilers were raised. By 1950, the 631 million broilers produced exceeded other chickens for the first time. Production showed phenomenal growth in the next several years—it passed the 1-billion mark in 1954 and the 2-billion level only 8 years later. In another 10 years, the number of broilers raised surpassed 3 billion.

The ready acceptance of more plentiful and lower-priced chicken by consumers helped spur the growth in the industry and moved chicken from a special "Sunday dinner" to a commonly used item. While the retail price of beef and pork more than doubled from 1950 to 1975, chicken costs about the same today as it did 25 years ago. At the same time, real per capita disposable incomes have risen by two-thirds. That's a main reason why broiler consumption rose from 8.7 pounds per person in 1950 to almost 37 pounds in 1975.

During the 1965-75 decade, broiler slaughter trended upward at an annual rate of 64 million birds, or a little more than 2 percent a year. Also, marketing weights gained and condemnations declined during this decade. The average liveweight of broilers marketed increased about 1 percent a year, rising from around 3.5 pounds in 1965 to 3.8 pounds in 1975. Condemnations of young chickens slaughtered under Federal inspection increased from 1965 to 1972, but then trended downward.

The increases in the number of broilers produced, combined with heavier marketing weights and fewer condemnations, caused ready-to-cook broiler meat output to increase at an average annual rate of 234 million pounds, or a bit more than 3 percent a year, during the past decade.

The phenomenal growth in the industry occurred during a period of relatively stable feed prices. However, since 1973, broiler producers have been facing a situation characterized by sharp swings in feed prices. Escalating feed prices caused a severe cost-price squeeze, and broiler producers

responded by cutting back output in early 1973 and again in late 1974 and early 1975. As a result, total yearly production held fairly stable from 1972 to 1975, following steady increases in previous years.

Broiler Output Turns Up This Year

Favorable profit margins in the second half of 1975 and until recently in 1976 have resulted in a sharp rise in output this year. Producers will continue their expansion through the end of 1976, but profit margins this fall will not be as favorable as a year earlier. The number of broilers produced in 1976 will total near 3.3 billion birds, up almost 12 percent from 1975 and 7 percent above the previous record in 1972. Broiler meat output is likely to total 9 billion pounds (ready-to-cook weight) this year, about 13 percent above 1975.

Broiler producers have not yet begun to significantly cut back on their expansion in production. Broiler meat output in the first half of 1976 was up 14 percent from a year ago and was nearly 9 percent above the previous record first-half output of 1974. Third quarter output continued to run around 14 percent above year-earlier levels. Apparently, most individual producers feel that if they cut back, it would have only a small impact on total output. Thus, producers probably plan to produce at near capacity as long as it is profitable and likely will only make significant reductions if and when they get into a severe cost-price squeeze.

If profit margins narrow as expected, the increase in production over year-ago levels will likely begin to slow late this year or early in 1977. But October-December output of broiler meat will continue at record levels and may total around a tenth above a year earlier. Margins probably will narrow because of higher production costs and declining broiler prices.

Broiler prices continued relatively strong this summer, despite larger supplies of poultry and red meats. Wholesale broiler prices in nine cities averaged slightly over 42 cents a pound in July-August, slightly above April-June but well below the high prices a year earlier. Prices have declined seasonally from the early July 45-cents-a-pound peak and further declines are likely during October-December. Broiler prices will be dampened by continued large broiler and turkey supplies coupled with increasing pork production.

Although rising consumer incomes will partially offset the larger meat supplies, broiler prices in October-December may average only in the high 30-cents-a-pound range. Combined with strong feed costs, this means many producers could find themselves producing broilers below the costs of production and marketing.

Producers may continue to expand in early 1977 but how long this continues will depend on production costs and broiler prices. Broiler prices are expected to be below year-earlier levels. Production costs will depend on the final outturn of the 1976 corn and soybean crops and the domestic and foreign demand for the crops. The 1976 soybean crop will be down and soybean meal prices higher. The corn crop is expected to be larger than last year, but recent dry weather has trimmed the margin of increase over 1975 levels from earlier expectations.

Prospects for lower beef production and higher consumer incomes will help bolster broiler prices next year. However, broilers will face stronger competition from pork, as pork supplies will be substantially larger and prices lower.

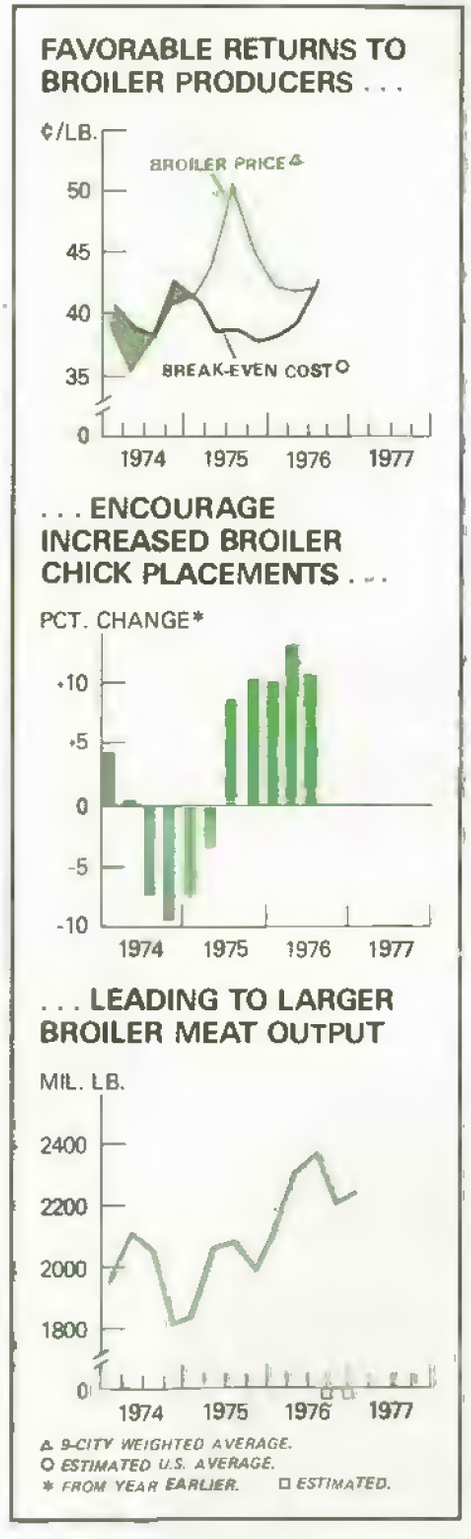
Look for More Broilers in the Long Run

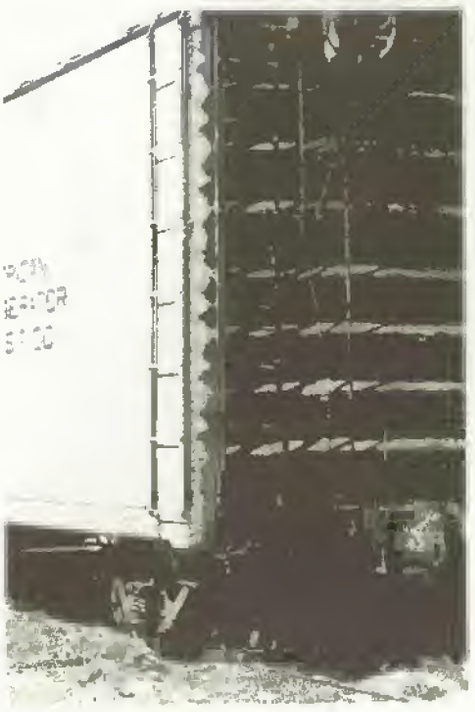
With continued moderate growth in consumers' disposable incomes and increasing population, the demand for meats likely will continue to grow. Assuming that feedstuffs will be plentiful and no unforeseen market disruptions will occur, broiler meat production will likely continue to trend upward in coming years. Broiler meat output in 1980 may exceed 9½ billion pounds (ready-to-cook weight), compared with about 9 billion likely this year. If the average broiler marketing weight remains around the 3¾ pounds of 1974-75, the number of broilers raised in 1980 would total around 3½ billion, compared with 3.3 billion estimated for 1976.

The assumption of plentiful feedstuffs and no unforeseen market disruptions may not always hold true in coming years. However, broiler producers have certain advantages that should allow them to adjust to swings in feed prices and other market disruptions.

It only takes about 7 to 8 weeks from hatch till a broiler is marketed, and this will be reduced further in years to come. This short production period will allow for rapid adjustments to changing conditions. Also, next to some fish, broilers are the most efficient converter of grain to meat. It now takes around 2.1 pounds of grain to produce 1 pound of broilers liveweight. Many people in the industry envision this dropping to 1.5 pounds only a few years hence.

The Economic Research Service recently published long-run projections to 1985 for production and utilization of many commodities, including chickens. Based on continued moderate growth in consumers' disposable incomes and growth in U.S. population to 236 million by 1985, total chicken meat production was projected at 11.7 billion pounds (ready-to-cook) in 1985. In recent years, broilers' share of total chicken meat production has increased as egg laying flocks have been reduced. By 1985 broiler meat may account for around 93 percent of total chicken. Under these circumstances, broiler meat output in 1985 could total around 11 billion pounds, about a fifth above the expected 1976 output.





TRANSPORTATION

October and November are usually troublesome months for the transportation and storage system, and this year promises to be little different.

Through August, both barge shipments and rail carloadings of grain were considerably above 1975. This has led to a continued tight supply of covered hopper cars, with orders for such equipment exceeding supply. However, barge and rail shipments dropped off in early September and there were reports of idle barges and a continued surplus of grain-suitable boxcars. Low water on the Mississippi River has substantially cut grain hauling barge capacity.

There appears to be more old crop grain in storage than in recent years and this could put additional pressure on storage and equipment for movement of new crop corn and soybeans.

While most of the heavy wheat harvest has been moved, the projected record corn crop could lead to spot shortages in both transportation and elevator space associated with domestic and export movements. Continued strength in the general economy could trim the supply of equipment for movement of agricultural products and would, therefore, lead to a tighter than anticipated situation. However, a repetition of the severe problems of 1973 appear unlikely. The Association of American Railroads and the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) are prepared to take remedial action should problems begin to develop.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, rail rates for farm and food products averaged about 7 percent more during July and August than in the same months of 1975. The average cost of shipping freight by rail remained essentially static over the past 2 months. The rail price index for July showed no increase over June, while August was up only slightly from July. However, rates will not remain unchanged for long; the ICC has given the railroads permission to file tariffs containing a 5-percent increase. The increase is designed to raise western rates to the levels charged elsewhere as a result of the March 21, 1976, general rate increase.

Ocean Freight Rates Stabilize

Ocean freight rates for bulk grains have varied greatly in recent years and have been especially volatile since the late 1960's. For example, rates from U.S. Gulf ports to the Antwerp-Rotterdam-Amsterdam area, a major shipping route, have peaked three times since 1967. The highest point came in the fourth quarter of 1973, when the average quarterly rate was about $16.60 per short ton of grain. Rates for this trade route then fell precipitously through 1974-75 to an average of about $4.50 in the first quarter of 1976. However, they rose to around $6.60 in the second quarter and appear to be stabilizing at around $6.00.

For all of 1976, ocean rates should average nearly the same as 1975 for most origins and destinations. However, significant differences exist in rates among shipping lanes. Such differences are often related to distances involved. For example, ocean rates for shipment from Gulf ports to India are generally more than twice those to Western Europe.

Besides distance, factors such as opportunities for return loading, likelihood of port congestion or disruption, port-related restrictions on ship size, loading and unloading facilities, traffic volume, and canal tolls also affect rates. These factors sometimes outweigh distance. Thus, opportunities for return loading from Japan to U.S. Gulf ports have apparently kept rates for grain shipments from the Gulf to Japan near or below those for similar shipments from closer North Pacific ports.

Grain Storage Capacity Increasing

Farm grain storage, country elevators, and the transportation system frequently substitute for each other during the critical harvest period. Adequate storage facilities appropriately located and utilized can ease seasonal grain flows that strain the transportation system and also help in placing grain to facilitate cyclical export movements.

Because general purpose farm structures may serve for grain storage, total farm storage is difficult to estimate accurately and such data have not been readily available. However, January 1 on-farm grain stocks and other data suggest that farm storage capacity is on the rise, and it has been estimated at between 5.8 and 6.0 billion bushels.

Annual estimates made of off-farm grain storage capacity show increased capacity from 5.6 billion bushels in 1970 to 6.1 billion in 1975. There are reports that off-farm storage capacity is continuing to increase. During the past few years, January 1 off-farm grain stocks have averaged about 54 percent of off-farm capacity.

Railcar Update

There were 1.7 million freight cars of all types in December 1975, about 12 percent fewer than in 1960. Railcar numbers reached a low point during 1973 but have increased during the past 2 years, mainly because of a growth in covered hoppers, flatcars, and specially equipped boxcars. "Common boxcars" declined by half (or about 328,000 cars) from 1960 to 1975, by far the largest decline for any type of car. Four-fifths of all cars were owned by railroads and the remaining fifth by car companies and shippers as of late 1975.

Of special concern for grain shippers is the number of 40-foot narrow-door

U.S. GRAIN STOCKS AND GRAIN STORAGE CAPACITY

Jan. 1	Grain stocks[1]		Grain storage capacity	
	On-farm	Off-farm	On-farm	Off-farm
	Bil. bu.			
1971	4.8	3.3	(2)	5.6
1972	5.9	3.4	(2)	6.0
1973	5.7	3.3	(2)	5.8
1974	5.2	3.0	(2)	5.9
1975	4.1	2.7	(2)	5.9
1976	5.0	3.3	(2)	6.1

[1] Includes feed grains, wheat, rye, soybeans, and flaxseed. [2] Not available.

boxcars and the railroad- and privately-owned covered hopper cars. These cars often carry other classes of goods and are not fully available for hauling grain, although most could probably be brought into such service if needed. Presently, an estimated 30 percent of covered hopper car loadings are of grain, but covered hoppers carry over four-fifths of the grain moved by railroads.

The continuing shift from the traditional 2,000-bushel, 40-foot narrow-door boxcars to covered hopper cars that presently haul an average of 3,400 bushels has greatly reduced the number of cars needed to haul a given quantity of grain. Covered hopper cars now account for at least 75 percent of the capacity of all cars normally considered usable in hauling grain. Even with gains in hopper cars, the combined one-time capacity of all railroad- and privately-owned cars suitable for hauling grains decreased from about 1.1 billion bushels in 1960 to around 1.0 billion in September 1976. (Jerome Hammond)

State Agencies Act on Rail Planning Requirements

During September through November, representatives of regional, State, and local agencies from across the Nation are meeting in a series of conferences sponsored jointly by the Federal Railroad Administration and the Council of State Governments. The purpose is to bring together State and Federal officials concerned with implementing the local rail service subsidy program established by the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976.

One of the requirements with which the States must comply before receiving any of the $360 million in Federal money is to have a comprehensive transportation plan and a designated agency to administer it. A principal feature of the legislation is to place the primary planning responsibility at the State level. Therefore, the State, and not the Federal Government, is the voice of public policy in the matter of subsidizing rail service.

In many instances, the State departments of agriculture are participating in the planning process. According to a recent U.S. Department of Transportation report, a third of the railroad route mileage nationwide carries only 1 percent of the traffic. Much of this light-density and potentially unprofitable mileage is rural and serves agriculture. The concern of the agricultural community is apparent.

Compared with government programs the size of this one, the national rail subsidy and rehabilitation program has come about rapidly.

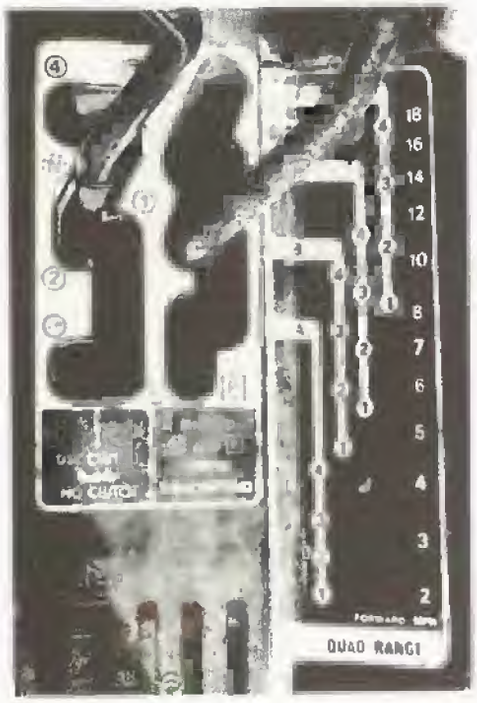
The subsidy program is for 5 years and started this past July. The Federal share of the money decreases from 100 percent the first year to 70 percent the fourth and fifth years. The balance is from State sources. (Lee H. Keely)

NUMBER OF NARROW-DOOR BOXCARS AND COVERED HOPPER CARS

Dec. 31	40-foot narrow-door boxcars, railroad owned	Covered hopper cars		
		Railroad owned	Privately owned	Total[1]
		Thou.		
1960	438	64	9	73
1961	407	66	10	76
1962	380	69	11	80
1963	347	74	12	86
1964	311	82	15	96
1965	274	92	18	110
1966	247	105	24	129
1967	228	119	28	147
1968	202	123	30	153
1969	181	126	34	160
1970	[2] 207	131	39	170
1971	190	138	41	179
1972	173	142	44	186
1973	164	151	54	205
1974	148	155	64	219
1975	131	158	70	228
1976[3]	116	158	71	229

[1] May not add due to rounding. [2] Increase reflects reclassification of a number of 40-foot cars from wide-door to narrow-door category. [3] September 1.

Source: Association of American Railroads, Car Service Division.



INPUTS

In contrast to 1973 and 1974, the 1976/77 outlook for most farm inputs is generally for larger supplies and more stable, or at least slower rising, prices. Farm prices of production inputs have held fairly steady in recent months, although they are currently around 6 percent above a year ago. Prices paid for production inputs rose an average of around 8½ percent in 1975 following annual gains averaging 16 percent each year in 1973 and 1974.

The major developments that will be influencing farmers' decisions regarding the use of inputs in coming months include: the rising cost of farm machinery, higher fuel prices, the possible prohibition of some pesticides, the uncertain situation with respect to nitrogen fertilizer, and relatively high-cost loan funds. Although no major shocks are anticipated in the input markets, any significant changes become factors in decisionmaking. (Robert Reinsel)

Last month's issue of *Agricultural Outlook* covered the fertilizer, farm machinery, and farm credit situations in some detail. This month, we focus on fuel and pesticide developments.

Little Additional Rise in Fuel Prices Expected

Prices of gasoline are up 1 or 2 cents per gallon over those paid during the first half of the year, but little additional increase in price is expected through the harvest season. However, price and allocation regulations may be removed from gasoline in the near future, which could lead to cost increases next year. Gasoline and diesel fuel supplies are plentiful and farmers should have no problem obtaining

sufficient fuel for farming operations. The higher price and increased use are expected to contribute to higher costs in 1977.

Price and allocation regulations on No. 2 heating oil, diesel fuel, and other middle distillates ended June 30, 1976. Price response to this action is uncertain, but the Federal Energy Administration (FEA) has assured Congress that FEA will take action if prices for this winter's heating oil rise more than 2 cents per gallon. It seems doubtful that diesel prices will rise by more than 1 or 2 cents per gallon for the remainder of 1976 and early 1977.

Liquid propane (LP) gas supplies have increased substantially over inventories of a year ago. The American Petroleum Institute reports that inventories at the end of July totaled almost 89 million barrels versus about 82 million barrels on July 31, 1975. However, farmers should make sure that their farm storage facilities are well filled before the peak need for crop drying this fall. No significant increase in the price of LP gas is expected because LP gas is still under regulation. However, a heavy fall demand and an early winter could create shortages in some locales.

Natural gas continues to be in short supply with interstate pipelines projecting curtailments near 30 percent of requirements for the coming winter heating season. The curtailments will be felt most severely in the East, the Southeast, and the Gulf Coast areas. However, end use purchasers in those areas served by intrastate pipelines should experience little difficulty in obtaining supplies, but they can expect to pay from two to four times the price charged for interstate gas. Currently, producer contracts with intrastate pipelines range around $1.65 per 1,000 cubic feet (mcf).

On July 27, 1976, the Federal Power Commission (FPC) announced an increase in the regulated price of natural gas from $.52 to $1.42 per mcf. This rate provides a new ceiling for gas dedicated to the interstate market after January 1, 1975. The price for gas dedicated to interstate commerce between January 1, 1973, and December 31, 1974,

Although several groups have opposed this price increase, court action has been favorable to the FPC rulings thus far. The price for new interstate gas will rise to $1.43 per mcf on October 1, 1976.

The effect of the higher unit prices on consumers will be softened in the near term, since 90 percent of interstate gas is already flowing, but over time the price impact will be greater as the higher priced newly discovered gas enters the pipelines. (Earle Gavett and Patricia Devlin)

October Situation Report Schedule

Situation reports which will be released by USDA's Outlook and Situation Board during October 1976 include:

Title	Off Press
Rice	October 1
World Agricultural	October 12
Ag Supply & Demand	October 13
Livestock & Meat	October 18
Ag Supply & Demand	October 22
Fats & Oils	October 27

Single copies of the above reports may be obtained by writing to: ERS publications Unit, Room 0054, South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Pesticides: 1976 Good Season for Growers, 1977 Shaping Up Well

The 1976 pesticide season was a good one for most farmers. Supplies of nearly all products were ample. Prices generally were unchanged from last year, compared with average price rises of 15 percent in 1974 and 40 percent in 1975 for 11 major farm pesticide products. The only major product that showed a substantial price rise in 1976 was carbaryl (22 percent). Prices of atrazine (80 percent wettable powder) and methyl parathion (4 pound per gallon emulsifiable concentrate) were down nearly 10 percent from last year.

The outlook is for continued sizable pesticide supplies for the 1977 season. Production for next year is currently underway. Prospects are good that supplies of agricultural pesticides will be sufficient for the 1977 crop season at nearly stable prices. Manufacturers of agricultural pesticides are adding to capacity and have some current unused capacity. Capacity expansions are still continuing, especially for some of the herbicides. Manufacturers added about 20 percent to overall pesticide capacity in 1976. In 1977, they expect to add another 20 percent to herbicide capacity and 5 percent to insecticide capacity. Because of grower resistance to early season buying last spring, suppliers are likely to make some serious efforts to encourage early buying for the 1977 season and avoid the uncertainty and other problems associated with last minute sales.

Regulatory actions are becoming an increasingly important factor in assessing the use and availability of pesticides. In recent years, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cancellations and suspensions have contributed to significant changes in the use of certain pesticides. Also, for the near future, there are regulatory requirements that may have a considerable effect on the availability and use of certain pesticides.

The EPA action to suspend the production of chlordane and heptachlor for most uses is probably one of the most significant. However, the final fate of chlordane and heptachlor has not been determined. Cancellation proceedings are now in progress with the possibility of a final decision by the end of the year.

The other significant regulatory action affecting the near future is the final implementation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Amended. All aspects of the new Act are to be in force by October 1977. By this time, all private and commercial applicators must be certified and all pesticides that were registered before 1972 must be reregistered.

The reregistration of pesticide products adds to the uncertainty associated with the availability of certain pesticides. The costs of compiling additional supportive data for reregistering many of the less widely used products could exceed their profit potential. Also, some products may not be able to meet the additional requirements for reregistration. As a result, when the law is fully implemented, pesticides for very specialized uses or for uses on certain minor crops may not be available.

The certification of pesticide applicators will require farmers to decide whether or not they want to become certified applicators. If they are now using certain restricted-use pesticides, certification will be necessary. If they choose to forego certification, they will be required to use alternative pesticides or have restricted-use pesticides applied by a certified custom applicator.

The lack of certification has several implications for farmers. The use of custom applicators to apply pesticides, formerly applied by farmers, could mean higher costs and less timely applications. The use of alternative pesticides could also mean higher costs for pesticide materials and less effectiveness in controlling pests. (Theodore Eichers and Paul Andrilenas)

If you would like a quantity of Agricultural Outlooks to give out to associates or business convention delegates, just call or write: Gerry Schumacher, Agricultural Outlook, Rm. 453, 500 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250 (202-447-6250).

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

November 15-18, 1976
General and Commodity Sessions

Monday, November 15
Thomas Jefferson Auditorium
USDA South Building

8:15 AM Sign In and Registration
9:00 AM Opening of Conference
9:15 AM U.S. Economic Outlook
9:35 AM U.S. Agricultural Outlook
9:55 AM U.S. Agricultural Trade Outlook
1:00 PM Agriculture and International Economic Relations
1:25 PM Issues in International Trade
2:30 PM Outlook for Retail Food Supplies and Prices
2:50 PM Panel discussion on Food Marketing and Distribution: Costs and Related Issues

Tuesday, November 16
Thomas Jefferson Auditorium
USDA South Building

9:00 AM Outlook for Prices and Supplies of Inputs
9:20 AM Enviromental Quality—Issues and Likely Impacts
9:40 AM World Weather and Climate—Issues and Controversies
10:30 AM Wheat Outlook
10:30 AM Credit Outlook (Room 3056, South Building)
10:50 AM Rice Outlook
1:15 PM Outlook for Forest Products, (Room 3840, South Building)
1:15 PM Sugar and Sweetener Outlook (Room to be announced)
1:15 PM Fruit and Tree Nut Outlook
1:35 PM Vegetable and Potato Outlook
3:00 PM Cotton Outlook
3:00 PM Tobacco Outlook (Room 3056, South Building)

Wednesday, November 17
Thomas Jefferson Auditorium
USDA South Building

9:00 AM Feed Outlook
10:30 AM Fats and Oils Outlook
1:00 PM Meat Animal Outlook
1:50 PM Poultry Outlook
3:30 PM Dairy Outlook

Thursday, November 18
Thomas Jefferson Auditorium
USDA South Building

9:00 AM Perspectives on Agricultural Policy
9:20 AM Beyond the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973
9:40 AM Emerging Policy Issues
10:15 AM Panel Discussion—Alternative Views on Policy Issues
12:15 AM Conference Ends

Family Living Sessions

Tuesday, November 16
Auditorium, Freer Gallery

8:45 AM Population Trends
9:30 AM Adult Functional Competency
10:30 AM Decade of Development for Women
11:15 AM Lifestyle Implications for the Family
1:15 PM Trends in Family Consumption
2:00 PM Program Development: Money Management Consultation Centers
3:00 PM Family Legislation
3:45 PM Consumer Legislation

Wednesday, November 17
Auditorium, Freer Gallery

8:45 AM Overview of Computer Programs
9:30 AM Planning and Use of Computer Programs
1:15 PM Flexibility in Housing Construction
1:45 PM Household Energy Conservation
2:15 PM Rural Transportation and Energy Expenditures
3:00 PM Canning and Freezing

Thursday, November 18
Auditorium, Freer Gallery

8:45 AM Housing Outlook
9:30 AM Energy Outlook
10:30 AM Health Care Outlook
11:15 AM Clothing and Textile Outlook

STATISTICAL INDICATORS

FARM INCOME

Gross and net farm income[1]

Items	First Half			1973	1974				1975				1976	
	1974	1975	1976	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
							$ Bil.							
Cash receipts from farm marketings	94.7	85.6	96.2	94.0	99.4	90.0	89.3	91.7	80.0	91.1	96.5	90.8	90.9	101.5
Nonmoney and other farm income[2]	7.4	8.4	9.2	8.4	7.4	7.5	7.7	7.8	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.8	9.1	9.3
Realized gross farm income	102.1	94.0	105.4	102.4	106.8	97.5	97.0	99.5	88.4	99.6	105.2	99.6	100.0	110.8
Farm production expenses	72.0	74.8	80.2	69.2	72.6	71.5	72.7	72.8	73.4	76.1	76.8	75.7	79.3	81.0
Farmers' realized net income	30.1	19.2	25.2	33.2	34.2	26.0	24.3	26.7	15.0	23.5	28.4	23.9	20.7	29.8
Net change in farm inventories	-1.1	2.4	.3	5.5	-1.5	-.8	0	-2.9	3.5	1.3	1.6	5.2	2.0	-1.4
Farmers' total net income	29.0	21.6	25.5	38.7	32.7	25.2	24.3	23.8	18.5	24.8	30.0	29.1	22.7	28.4

[1] Quarterly data are seasonally adjusted at annual rates. [2] Includes government payments to farmers, value of farm products consumed in farm households, rental value of farm dwellings, and income from recreation, machine hire, and custom work. Note: As of July 1976, annual and quarterly farm income data revised for 1973-75.

Cash receipts from farming

Items	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	July	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
					$ Mil.					
Farm marketings and CCC loans[1]	40,709	36,362	41,284	7,815	6,391	6,251	6,237	6,210	7,699	7,839
Livestock and products	21,443	19,606	23,458	3,641	3,726	3,893	4,104	3,911	3,981	3,809
Meat animals	13,096	11,561	14,047	2,170	2,268	2,342	2,555	2,257	2,355	2,146
Dairy products	5,027	4,789	5,778	817	890	978	961	1,013	980	978
Poultry and eggs	3,049	3,011	3,379	611	530	538	541	592	600	640
Other	271	245	254	43	38	35	47	49	46	45
Crops	19,266	16,756	17,826	4,174	2,665	2,358	2,133	2,299	3,718	4,030
Food grains	3,183	2,903	3,086	1,401	339	286	289	415	1,131	1,321
Feed crops	5,812	4,847	5,459	1,004	909	738	608	638	1,073	1,058
Cotton (lint and seed)	1,079	978	850	63	167	120	26	28	31	22
Tobacco	203	289	357	178	38	2	11	9	2	210
Oil-bearing crops	3,646	2,513	2,743	404	487	329	269	238	493	330
Vegetables and melons	2,212	2,001	2,110	531	273	329	366	385	437	494
Fruits and tree nuts	1,348	1,430	1,539	316	196	243	210	304	355	341
Other	1,783	1,795	1,682	277	256	311	354	282	196	254
Government payments	93	489	255	26	53	32	52	16	19	39
Total cash receipts[2]	40,802	36,851	41,539	7,841	6,444	6,283	6,289	6,226	7,718	7,878

[1] Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month. [2] Details may not add because of rounding. Note: As of July 1976, annual and monthly cash receipts data revised for 1973-75.

Cash receipts[1] from farm marketings, by States, January-July

State	Livestock and Products		Crops[2]		Total[2]	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
			$ Mil.			
NORTH ATLANTIC						
Maine	135.7	149.1	73.6	113.2	209.3	262.3
New Hampshire	29.1	32.5	10.9	11.1	40.0	43.6
Vermont	111.2	140.5	10.7	11.6	121.9	152.0
Massachusetts	59.0	64.2	49.4	61.4	108.4	125.6
Rhode Island	6.3	7.0	8.5	25.8	14.7	32.8
Connecticut	64.0	77.2	66.9	78.7	130.9	155.8
New York	579.7	715.9	201.1	205.8	780.8	921.7
New Jersey	57.1	66.5	101.0	103.3	158.1	169.8
Pennsylvania	644.5	753.9	236.1	250.1	880.6	1,004.0
NORTH CENTRAL						
Ohio	629.4	706.0	849.0	724.4	1,478.5	1,430.4
Indiana	666.7	733.3	716.5	759.0	1,383.2	1,492.3
Illinois	1,045.8	1,136.0	1,821.3	2,359.3	2,867.1	3,495.2
Michigan	390.6	473.3	421.5	425.0	812.1	898.3
Wisconsin	1,193.4	1,495.6	234.5	255.4	1,427.9	1,751.0
Minnesota	1,132.2	1,315.9	838.7	848.0	1,970.9	2,163.9
Iowa	2,160.7	2,382.7	1,444.6	1,551.4	3,605.4	3,934.2
Missouri	819.1	964.6	466.2	465.5	1,285.3	1,430.1
North Dakota	221.8	293.2	660.7	682.5	882.5	975.8
South Dakota	717.4	877.7	291.0	226.2	1,008.4	1,103.9
Nebraska	1,176.5	1,346.2	841.5	922.7	2,018.0	2,268.9
Kansas	840.6	1,106.5	996.3	1,071.3	1,836.9	2,177.8
SOUTHERN						
Delaware	95.3	103.1	29.8	23.5	125.1	126.7
Maryland	230.0	251.9	102.7	87.4	332.7	339.3
Virginia	273.9	313.8	128.1	109.8	402.0	423.6
West Virginia	50.3	55.8	16.9	16.3	67.2	72.1
North Carolina	541.4	598.4	347.7	285.5	889.1	884.0
South Carolina	145.6	165.3	227.0	203.9	372.7	369.2
Georgia	616.3	693.4	324.5	303.8	940.8	997.1
Florida	346.6	416.0	1,322.4	1,408.0	1,668.9	1,824.0
Kentucky	348.6	429.3	285.7	330.8	634.3	760.1
Tennessee	305.3	392.5	140.1	160.5	445.4	553.0
Alabama	465.7	524.7	188.7	177.8	654.4	702.4
Mississippi	365.6	427.9	236.9	261.2	602.5	689.1
Arkansas	532.9	616.7	377.9	342.1	910.9	958.8
Louisiana	178.6	222.6	321.9	256.3	500.5	478.9
Oklahoma	567.7	753.1	425.5	421.5	993.2	1,174.6
Texas	1,655.7	2,004.1	1,325.3	1,372.8	2,980.9	3,377.0
WESTERN						
Montana	121.2	160.4	272.7	297.7	393.9	458.1
Idaho	264.6	320.8	296.1	307.0	560.7	627.9
Wyoming	76.7	102.9	29.6	44.1	106.4	147.0
Colorado	736.0	817.7	221.5	192.9	957.5	1,010.6
New Mexico	189.5	224.6	79.1	69.2	268.6	293.8
Arizona	273.4	320.6	376.2	364.5	649.6	685.1
Utah	114.7	138.8	42.7	35.9	157.4	174.6
Nevada	39.8	50.2	11.5	21.2	51.3	71.5
Washington	246.7	299.3	586.1	657.1	832.9	956.4
Oregon	172.3	207.0	248.1	250.4	420.4	457.4
California	1,576.4	1,781.2	2,443.1	2,547.3	4,019.5	4,328.5
Alaska	2.3	2.3	.5	.5	2.7	2.8
Hawaii	32.9	35.1	182.6	155.4	215.6	190.4
UNITED STATES						
Grand Total	23,246.8	27,267.3	20,930.9	21,856.1	44,177.7	49,123.4

[1] Estimates as of the first of current month. [2] Sales of farm products include receipts from loans reported minus value of redemptions during the period. Rounded data may not add.

Farm marketing indexes (physical volume)[1]

Items	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	July	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
					1967=100					
All commodities	97	95	104	116	98	95	92	92	112	116
Livestock and products	102	102	108	103	105	110	112	106	109	108
Crops	91	86	97	135	90	76	65	71	116	127

[1] Base weight period shifted from 1967-69 to 1971-73.

Farm production[1]

Items	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976[2]
				1967=100			
Farm output	101	111	110	112	108	111	111
All livestock products[3]	105	108	108	105	106	100	103
Meat animals	108	112	110	108	110	101	102
Dairy products	100	101	102	98	98	98	100
Poultry and eggs	106	107	109	106	106	102	109
All crops[4]	101	112	113	120	110	122	118
Feed grains	89	116	112	115	93	113	114
Hay and forage	99	105	104	109	104	108	101
Food grains	91	107	102	112	120	141	139
Sugar crops	114	117	128	112	104	130	128
Cotton	139	145	187	175	158	112	139
Tobacco	97	86	88	88	101	111	103
Oil crops	117	121	131	155	127	151	131
Cropland used for crops	98	100	98	104	106	108	108
Crop production per acre	104	112	115	115	103	113	109

[1] Prepared jointly by Economic Research Service and Statistical Reporting Service. For historical data and explanation of indexes, see "Changes in Farm Production and Efficiency," Statistical Bulletin 548. [2] Preliminary indexes for 1976 based on September 1976 "Crop Production" and other releases of the Crop Reporting Board, SRS. [3] Gross livestock production includes minor livestock products not included in the separate groups shown. It cannot be added to gross crop production to compute farm output. [4] Gross crop production includes some miscellaneous crops not in the separate groups shown. It cannot be added to gross livestock production to compute farm output.

FARM PRICES: RECEIVED AND PAID

Indexes of prices received and paid by farmers, U.S. average

Items	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
					1967=100					
Prices Received										
All farm products	192	180	189	194	186	189	191	196	195	187
All crops	213	202	197	212	195	193	198	211	215	201
Food grains	309	242	223	253	227	222	218	218	213	190
Feed grains and hay	216	235	221	246	217	214	229	237	242	226
Feed grains	218	237	219	250	216	213	223	235	242	224
Cotton	231	158	245	193	235	223	254	302	317	271
Tobacco	138	166	158	155	158	158	158	158	153	166
Oil-bearing crops	204	203	180	211	169	171	181	222	240	219
Fruit	136	138	133	140	138	140	138	127	119	137
Fresh market[1]	131	132	133	135	138	141	139	126	116	136
Commercial vegetables	137	166	160	154	167	165	142	153	155	159
Fresh market	154	176	168	157	179	177	140	157	170	166
Potatoes[2]	358	192	238	271	236	243	246	248	228	199
Livestock and products	173	160	183	180	178	186	185	184	179	175
Meat animals	176	157	181	181	173	188	186	187	176	166
Dairy products	171	162	190	171	193	188	183	181	187	192
Poultry and eggs	162	170	179	186	175	172	178	174	179	184
Prices Paid										
Commodities and services, interest, taxes, and wage rates	162	178	192	184	192	193	193	195	196	195
Family living items	146	163	173	169	173	174	174	175	177	177
Production items	161	179	195	186	194	197	196	199	199	198
Feed	182	189	186	192	185	183	187	199	206	198
Feeder livestock	169	124	162	132	158	174	168	162	154	152
Interest on indebtedness secured by farm real estate	235	281	302	281	302	302	302	302	302	302
Taxes on farm real estate	154	162	169	162	169	169	169	169	169	169
Wage rates (seasonally adjusted)	175	190	211	192	213	209	209	209	213	213
Production items, interest, taxes, and wage rates	168	184	200	190	200	202	201	204	204	203
Prices received (1910-14=100)	479	448	473	486	464	473	477	490	488	468
Prices paid, etc. (Parity index) (1910-14=100)	549	604	654	624	652	656	656	663	665	663
Parity ratio	87	74	72	78	71	72	73	74	73	71

[1] Fresh market for noncitrus and fresh market and processing for citrus. [2] Includes sweetpotatoes and dry edible beans.

Prices received by farmers, U.S. average

Commodities	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Crops										
All wheat ($/bu.)	4.47	3.63	3.52	3.89	3.65	3.50	3.43	3.42	3.33	2.97
Rice, rough ($/cwt.)	16.75	11.08	7.14	9.80	5.91	7.09	7.06	7.32	–	6.44
Corn ($/bu.)	2.58	2.77	2.54	2.95	2.50	2.46	2.61	2.74	2.82	2.64
Sorghum ($/cwt.)	3.94	4.28	4.14	4.69	4.13	4.13	4.14	4.29	4.53	4.03
All hay, baled ($/ton)	47.60	51.90	56.60	51.00	54.10	54.10	64.80	59.60	59.00	58.70
Soybeans ($/bu.)	5.56	5.47	4.83	5.80	4.46	4.52	4.87	6.16	6.73	6.07
Cotton, Upland (cts./lb.)	51.9	35.6	55.0	43.5	52.8	50.2	57.1	68.0	71.4	[3]61.0
Potatoes ($/cwt.)	6.78	3.57	5.03	5.06	4.95	5.23	5.26	5.43	4.85	4.16
Dry edible beans ($/cwt.)	40.80	18.40	17.60	21.20	17.90	16.20	17.00	16.00	16.60	15.70
Apples for fresh use (cts./lb.)	11.30	12.20	8.7	11.8	9.1	10.0	9.3	7.1	9.5	12.3
Pears for fresh use ($/ton)	[1]206	[1]178	[1]215	186	239	218	244	–	140	105
Oranges, all uses ($/box)[2]	1.67	1.56	2.09	1.37	2.09	2.16	2.31	2.24	1.53	1.53
Grapefruit, all uses ($/box)[2]	1.47	1.73	1.36	2.40	1.22	1.27	1.87	1.16	1.10	2.19
Livestock										
Beef cattle ($/cwt.)	39.60	31.00	35.40	32.30	33.60	37.90	36.90	36.30	33.50	32.80
Calves ($/cwt.)	47.40	26.40	36.00	25.40	35.30	38.00	38.80	37.90	35.20	34.50
Hogs ($/cwt.)	32.60	41.20	47.40	56.10	45.50	47.00	47.50	49.10	47.70	42.60
Lambs ($/cwt.)	39.30	41.30	51.70	39.90	49.70	54.60	60.30	51.00	46.90	41.40
All milk, sold to plants ($/cwt.)	8.59	8.21	9.57	8.64	9.72	9.37	9.23	9.11	9.41	[3]9.67
Milk, manuf. grade ($/cwt.)	7.58	7.04	8.53	7.63	8.53	8.50	8.31	8.32	8.60	[3]8.85
Broilers (cts./lb.)	21.3	24.5	24.4	29.1	24.4	23.7	24.7	24.3	25.4	24.3
Eggs (cts./doz.)[4]	53.2	50.9	56.5	50.8	54.1	53.4	55.5	53.8	55.5	60.6
Turkeys (cts./lb.)	29.3	31.2	32.2	35.7	32.5	31.6	32.0	31.4	31.2	30.9
Wool (cts./lb.)[5]	66.2	41.6	60.1	46.2	52.8	67.8	69.5	69.0	70.2	66.5

[1] January-May average. [2] Equivalent on-tree returns. [3] Preliminary. [4] Average of all eggs sold by farmers, including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail. [5] Average local market price, excluding incentive payments.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES

Wholesale Price Index, U.S. average (not seasonally adjusted)

Commodity group	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
	1967=100									
All commodities	151.8	172.1	180.7	176.7	179.6	181.3	181.8	183.1	184.3	183.7
Industrial commodities	144.4	169.2	179.3	172.2	178.9	180.0	180.4	181.3	182.6	183.6
All foods[1]	166.7	183.8	180.8	189.0	178.2	181.5	182.1	180.1	180.9	176.2
Farm products and processed foods and feed	172.2	180.1	183.8	189.0	180.3	183.7	184.9	187.5	188.1	181.7
Farm products	190.1	179.0	192.0	193.2	187.2	192.9	192.6	196.5	196.9	189.3
Fruits and vegetables[2]	213.0	180.2	184.4	179.6	184.5	195.0	179.0	160.8	164.7	159.3
Grains	243.3	226.1	215.0	237.8	217.8	209.0	213.5	225.1	224.3	207.6
Livestock	173.2	172.9	183.2	203.0	170.7	192.3	186.9	185.1	175.9	166.2
Poultry, live	152.5	176.2	173.2	202.4	182.6	165.4	174.3	174.9	184.0	179.0
Fibers, plant and animal	222.5	141.4	198.8	161.1	187.9	187.5	201.5	235.9	269.0	235.6
Milk	180.7	168.9	201.5	176.0	207.6	197.0	194.2	190.2	193.1	200.6
Eggs	160.3	153.5	169.7	156.7	159.2	162.6	171.5	165.8	167.7	186.8
Oilseeds	207.8	207.6	181.5	216.6	172.9	172.2	181.2	219.7	239.3	221.5
Processed foods and feeds	160.9	180.7	178.6	186.3	175.8	178.0	179.9	181.8	182.6	176.8
Meats	158.0	173.4	181.8	203.4	171.7	183.5	182.8	182.0	175.3	164.7
Beef and veal	162.5	165.7	162.8	186.5	150.0	171.5	162.0	157.9	147.3	144.9
Pork	150.8	189.3	212.9	241.0	202.4	203.3	212.6	220.9	218.0	192.5
Poultry	153.3	172.0	170.2	195.3	178.8	163.8	171.8	172.2	181.2	177.2
Fish	212.9	207.6	267.6	224.9	261.3	271.3	279.9	283.7	278.7	259.9
Dairy	148.0	149.1	166.9	156.3	166.7	167.7	167.1	167.0	170.0	173.9
Processed fruits and vegetables	142.9	170.7	167.6	168.6	166.5	167.1	167.9	170.0	169.9	171.3
Cereal and bakery products	168.0	179.6	174.0	175.8	174.5	172.8	173.4	173.7	173.6	170.9
Sugar and confectionery	192.6	291.0	203.2	243.2	207.5	202.5	208.7	197.4	201.3	185.0
Beverages	131.0	161.7	168.9	161.6	167.0	169.3	172.3	172.7	175.7	175.8
Vegetable oil end products	198.3	227.2	171.3	207.9	170.2	168.8	173.4	170.6	173.1	172.7
Textile products and apparel	137.2	135.6	146.8	137.6	146.7	147.4	147.0	148.1	149.0	149.2
Apparel	126.4	133.1	137.9	132.8	137.8	138.6	137.9	139.4	140.2	141.1
Hides, leather, and related products	144.5	145.2	163.6	149.3	162.0	165.4	169.6	167.4	169.8	171.3
Footwear	136.8	146.3	154.6	147.5	153.9	155.3	156.2	157.8	160.1	160.6
Lumber and wood products	191.6	173.8	199.0	179.7	202.3	203.3	202.3	199.8	203.7	207.5
Tobacco products	127.0	148.2	160.6	148.7	159.3	162.1	161.9	161.9	161.9	162.0

[1] Includes all processed food (except soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, and manufactured animal feeds) plus eggs and fresh and dried fruits and vegetables from farm products group. [2] Fresh and dried.

Consumer Price Index, U.S. average (not seasonally adjusted)

Items	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
	1967=100									
Consumer price index, all items	143.4	158.3	168.1	162.8	167.5	168.2	169.2	170.1	171.1	171.9
Consumer price index, less food	139.1	154.3	164.7	158.3	164.2	165.0	166.0	167.0	167.9	168.9
All food	158.2	171.9	179.9	178.1	178.7	179.2	180.0	180.9	182.1	182.4
Food away from home	154.9	171.5	183.3	175.3	182.8	183.8	184.8	185.6	186.9	187.8
Food at home	159.1	172.0	179.1	179.0	177.7	178.1	178.8	179.7	180.9	181.0
Meats[1]	166.3	164.7	181.3	190.4	179.6	176.6	180.6	181.6	182.9	180.1
Beef and veal	171.3	161.0	167.0	182.5	164.7	160.8	167.1	166.5	166.9	163.3
Pork	160.8	173.9	205.0	214.3	204.3	200.0	201.9	205.0	208.7	206.0
Poultry	147.5	152.2	159.3	174.3	157.7	158.0	155.3	160.7	161.9	158.2
Fish	184.9	197.8	221.4	205.1	219.3	222.3	225.1	226.3	227.9	229.3
Eggs	163.8	156.4	165.8	151.1	160.4	159.4	154.5	152.6	164.1	175.7
Dairy products[2]	151.5	154.6	168.0	154.3	167.9	167.9	167.4	167.9	168.0	169.0
Fats and oils[3]	162.6	208.5	174.6	189.3	175.0	171.7	170.6	170.4	169.7	169.2
Fruits and vegetables	165.3	168.6	175.4	177.9	173.6	179.0	176.4	176.7	177.3	178.3
Fresh	166.2	162.9	168.9	180.0	165.2	174.7	171.7	173.6	175.0	176.6
Processed	164.0	177.2	185.0	174.8	186.1	185.4	183.3	181.3	180.9	180.7
Cereals and bakery products	159.0	187.1	181.0	182.6	180.6	180.2	180.8	181.3	180.9	180.3
Sugar and sweets	163.6	260.5	221.8	236.0	222.4	221.1	219.5	219.3	217.9	218.0
Beverages, nonalcoholic	144.5	176.4	197.6	175.1	193.0	198.0	203.3	208.7	216.3	223.2
Apparel commodities less footwear	132.0	139.1	142.6	140.6	142.2	142.8	144.2	144.1	143.4	145.2
Footwear	135.4	143.6	147.7	143.9	147.5	149.0	149.6	149.5	149.6	151.0
Tobacco products	140.0	153.0	159.5	154.4	159.5	159.9	160.1	160.2	160.4	160.5
Beverages, alcoholic	127.8	141.2	145.5	142.8	145.2	146.0	146.6	146.8	147.5	147.6

[1] Beef, veal, lamb, mutton, pork, and processed meat. [2] Includes butter. [3] Excludes butter.

FARM-RETAIL PRICE SPREADS

Farm-retail price spreads

Commodities	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug[6]
Market basket:[1]										
Retail cost (1967=100)	159.7	169.4	176.0	177.6	174.8	174.9	175.2	175.9	176.8	176.5
Farm value (1967=100)	177.5	178.0	183.3	197.5	180.6	184.2	181.9	183.4	183.3	178.9
Farm-retail spread (1967=100)	148.4	164.0	171.4	165.0	171.1	169.0	170.9	171.1	172.7	175.0
Farmer's share (%)	43	41	40	43	40	41	40	40	40	39
Beef, choice:										
Retail price[2] (cts./lb.)	139.8	138.0	141.8	155.5	135.1	142.0	141.7	140.8	138.2	135.8
Carcass value[3] (cts.)	98.7	100.0	91.4	112.1	82.8	95.9	92.1	91.0	84.9	83.2
Net farm value (cts./2.28 lbs.)	86.9	88.2	80.4	96.8	71.8	87.4	81.2	80.6	74.2	72.8
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	52.9	49.8	61.4	58.7	63.3	54.6	60.5	60.2	64.0	63.0
Carcass-retail spread[4] (cts.)	41.1	38.0	50.4	43.4	52.3	46.1	49.6	49.8	53.3	52.6
Farm-carcass spread[5] (cts.)	11.8	11.8	11.0	15.3	11.0	8.5	10.9	10.4	10.7	10.4
Farmer's share (%)	62	64	57	62	53	62	57	57	54	54
Pork:										
Retail price[2] (cts./lb.)	107.2	118.8	140.0	150.2	138.7	136.6	138.6	140.4	142.1	137.4
Wholesale value[3] (cts.)	74.4	91.2	100.5	118.2	96.2	98.6	101.4	101.8	98.6	92.0
Net farm value (cts./1.97 lbs.)	57.0	74.9	87.5	102.7	83.9	86.2	88.2	91.7	86.3	78.7
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	50.2	43.9	52.5	47.5	54.8	50.4	50.4	48.7	55.8	58.7
Carcass-retail spread[4] (cts.)	32.8	27.6	39.5	32.0	42.5	38.0	37.2	38.6	43.5	45.4
Farm-carcass spread[5] (cts.)	17.4	16.3	13.0	15.5	12.3	12.4	13.2	10.1	12.3	13.3
Farmer's share (%)	53	63	62	68	60	63	64	65	61	57

See footnotes at end of table.

Farm-retail price spreads —Continued

Commodities	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug[6]
Milk, fresh:										
Retail price (cts./½gal.)	78.8	78.4	82.4	77.0	82.8	82.6	82.0	82.2	81.9	82.0
Farm value (cts./4.39 lbs. Class I)	41.9	39.9	46.2	40.8	46.9	44.5	45.5	44.7	44.8	44.6
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	36.9	38.5	36.2	36.2	35.9	38.1	36.5	37.5	37.1	37.4
Farmer's share (%)	53	51	56	53	57	54	55	54	55	54
Chicken, frying:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	55.7	58.9	61.3	68.5	60.8	60.7	59.4	62.0	62.6	60.7
Farm value (cts./1.41 lbs. broilers)	30.6	33.7	34.1	40.7	35.7	32.6	32.1	34.5	36.9	34.8
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	25.1	25.2	27.2	27.8	25.1	28.1	27.3	27.5	25.7	25.9
Farmer's share (%)	55	57	56	59	59	54	54	56	59	59
Eggs, large grade A										
Retail price (cts./doz.)	79.8	76.3	80.8	73.7	78.2	77.6	75.2	74.4	80.0	85.7
Farm value (cts./1.03 doz.)	54.0	49.2	54.2	49.2	50.6	52.4	50.5	47.9	53.9	61.8
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	25.8	27.1	26.6	24.5	27.6	25.2	24.7	26.5	26.1	23.9
Farmer's share (%)	68	64	67	67	65	68	67	64	67	72
Bread, white:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	33.6	36.8	35.3	35.1	35.2	35.1	35.3	35.6	35.4	35.3
Farm value (cts./0.867 lb. wheat)	5.5	4.4	4.3	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	3.5
Farm value (cts. for all farm ingredients)	7.6	6.9	6.2	7.2	6.4	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.3
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	26.0	29.9	29.1	27.9	28.8	29.0	29.2	29.6	29.4	30.0
Farmer's share (%)	23	19	18	21	18	17	17	17	17	15
Lettuce:										
Retail price (cts./head)	39.7	41.4	41.2	39.8	38.2	40.7	44.9	40.7	41.7	57.0
Farm value (cts./1.88 lbs.)	12.2	12.8	14.1	13.4	18.1	15.4	11.3	11.9	15.8	18.8
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	27.5	28.6	27.1	26.4	20.1	25.3	33.6	28.8	25.9	38.2
Farmer's share (%)	31	31	34	34	47	38	25	29	38	33
Potatoes:										
Retail price (cts./10 lbs.)	193.8	112.6	158.8	178.7	154.1	159.8	166.0	177.1	162.0	146.7
Farm value (cts./10.42 lbs.)	70.8	37.6	52.4	52.7	51.6	54.5	54.8	56.6	50.5	43.3
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	123.0	75.0	106.4	126.0	102.5	105.3	111.2	120.5	111.5	103.4
Farmer's share (%)	37	33	33	29	33	34	33	32	31	30
Tomatoes:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	58.5	60.4	58.5	48.2	57.4	66.2	60.3	52.6	62.2	46.4
Farm value (cts./1.18 lbs.)	22.1	25.0	23.1	19.1	25.6	27.9	16.3	28.6	23.2	21.3
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	36.4	35.4	35.4	29.1	31.8	38.3	44.0	24.0	39.0	25.1
Farmer's share (%)	38	41	39	40	45	42	27	54	37	46
Orange juice, frozen concentrate:										
Retail price (cts./6-oz. can)	25.5	27.9	29.2	28.2	29.1	29.2	29.2	29.3	29.2	28.5
Farm value (cts./3.08 lbs.)	9.2	8.4	10.4	8.8	10.3	10.9	11.0	11.3	11.0	11.0
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	16.3	19.5	18.8	19.4	18.8	18.3	18.2	18.0	18.2	17.5
Farmer's share (%)	36	30	36	31	35	37	38	39	38	39
Margarine:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	51.2	67.2	53.1	58.5	53.5	51.7	51.6	51.1	51.1	50.7
Farm value (cts. for veg. oil and NFDM)	23.1	22.9	14.4	24.9	14.5	14.6	13.4	15.1	19.1	16.8
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	28.1	44.3	38.7	33.6	39.0	37.1	38.2	36.0	32.0	33.9
Farmer's share (%)	45	34	27	43	27	28	26	30	37	33

[1] For a market basket of U.S. farm foods representing the average quantities purchased annually per household in 1960-61 and selected items. Retail prices are from Bureau of Labor Statistics unless otherwise noted. The farm value is the payment to farmers for quantity of farm product equivalent to retail unit, less allowance for byproduct. Farm values are based on prices at first point of sale and may include marketing charges such as grading and packing for some commodities. The farm-retail spread, the difference between the retail price and the farm value, represents charges for assembling, processing, transporting, and distributing these foods. Data are preliminary. [2] Composite monthly average prices of all cuts adjusted for volume sold at special prices-derived from BLS and food chain prices. [3] For a quantity equivalent to 1 lb. retail cuts: Beef, 1.41 lb. of carcass beef (yield grade 3); pork, 1.07 lb. of wholesale cuts. [4] Represents charges for retailing and other marketing services such as fabricating, wholesaling, and in-city transportation. [5] Represents charges made for livestock marketing, processing, and transportation to city where consumed. [6] Preliminary.

Price spreads for beef and pork

Item	Retail price per pound[1]	Carcass value[2]	Gross farm values[3]	Byproduct allowance[4]	Net farm value[5]	Farm-retail spread			Farmer's share
						Total	Carcass-retail[6]	Farm-carcass[7]	
	Cents								Percent
Beef, Choice grade									
1971	104.3	75.7	72.3	4.5	67.8	36.5	28.6	7.9	65
1972	113.8	80.1	79.8	7.4	72.4	41.4	33.7	7.7	64
1973	135.5	98.1	100.0	10.1	89.9	45.6	37.4	8.2	66
1974	138.8	97.4	93.7	7.6	86.1	52.7	41.4	11.3	62
1975	146.0	105.5	99.9	7.0	92.9	53.1	40.5	12.6	64
1974									
Jan.-Mar.	145.1	103.9	101.5	9.4	92.1	53.0	41.2	11.8	63
Apr.-June	134.5	93.6	89.0	7.3	81.7	52.8	40.9	11.9	61
July-Sept.	141.0	102.1	99.1	7.8	91.3	49.7	38.9	10.8	65
Oct.-Dec.	134.5	90.2	85.4	6.1	79.3	55.2	44.3	10.9	59
1975									
Jan.-Mar.	129.6	86.6	80.3	5.1	75.2	54.4	43.0	11.4	58
Apr.-June	146.5	113.4	108.4	7.1	101.3	45.2	33.1	12.1	69
July-Sept.	156.4	115.4	108.8	7.9	100.9	55.5	41.0	14.5	65
Oct.-Dec.	151.4	106.5	102.2	7.9	94.3	57.1	44.9	12.2	62
1976									
Jan.-Mar.	142.1	89.8	85.3	7.6	77.7	64.4	52.3	12.1	55
Apr.-June	141.5	93.0	91.9	8.8	83.1	58.4	48.5	9.9	59
Pork									
1971	70.3	52.1	35.0	2.7	32.3	38.0	18.2	19.8	46
1972	83.2	65.3	51.2	3.5	47.7	35.5	17.9	17.6	57
1973	109.8	87.3	78.2	6.7	71.5	38.3	22.5	15.8	65
1974	108.2	77.4	68.0	7.2	60.8	47.4	30.8	16.6	56
1975	135.0	103.8	94.8	7.9	86.9	48.1	31.2	16.9	64
1974									
Jan.-Mar.	115.2	82.3	73.8	7.7	66.1	49.1	32.9	16.2	57
Apr.-June	99.3	66.4	53.2	5.3	47.9	51.4	32.9	18.5	48
July-Sept.	107.4	77.6	70.1	7.3	62.8	44.6	29.8	14.8	58
Oct.-Dec.	111.0	83.5	75.0	8.4	66.6	44.4	27.5	16.9	60
1975									
Jan.-Mar.	114.4	85.7	75.6	7.3	68.3	46.1	28.7	17.4	60
Apr.-June	123.1	96.7	88.9	7.4	81.5	41.6	26.4	15.2	66
July-Sept.	149.2	118.9	114.0	9.7	104.3	44.9	30.3	14.6	70
Oct.-Dec.	153.4	113.9	100.9	7.3	93.6	59.8	39.5	20.3	61
1976									
Jan.-Mar.	141.5	100.3	92.6	6.2	86.4	55.1	41.2	13.9	61
Apr.-June	138.5	100.6	95.0	6.3	88.7	49.8	37.9	11.9	64

[1] Composite monthly average prices of all cuts adjusted for volume sold at special prices—derived from BLS and food chain prices. [2] For a quantity equivalent to 1 lb. retail cuts: Beef, 1.41 lb. of carcass beef (1975 and later data based on yield grade 3); pork, 1.07 lb. of wholesale cuts. [3] Payment to farmers for quantity of live animal equivalent to 1 retail pound: Beef, 2.28 lb. and pork 1.97 lb. [4] Portion of gross farm value attributed to edible and inedible byproducts. [5] Gross farm value minus byproduct allowance. [6] Includes not only gross margin for retailing but also charges made for other marketing services such as fabricating, wholesaling, and in-city transportation. [7] Measure changes made for livestock marketing, processing, and transportation to city where consumed.

FOOD SUPPLY AND USE

Civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities (retail weight)[1]

Commodity	1960	1967	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975[2]	1976 forecast as percent of 1975
	Pounds								Pct.
Meats:	134.2	145.1	151.2	156.4	153.3	142.3	152.2	145.3	104
Beef	64.3	78.8	84.1	83.6	85.9	81.1	86.4	88.9	106
Veal	5.2	3.2	2.4	2.2	1.8	1.5	1.9	3.5	86
Lamb and mutton	4.3	3.5	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.4	2.0	1.8	94
Pork (excluding lard)	60.4	59.6	61.8	67.8	62.7	57.3	61.9	51.0	103
Fish (edible weight)	10.3	10.6	11.8	11.5	12.5	12.9	12.1	12.1	102
Poultry products:									
Eggs	42.4	40.7	39.5	39.8	39.0	37.3	36.6	35.3	100
Chicken (ready-to-cook)	27.8	36.5	40.5	40.4	42.0	40.7	41.1	40.3	109
Turkey (ready-to-cook)	6.2	8.6	8.0	8.4	9.0	8.5	8.9	8.6	106
Dairy products:									
Cheese	8.3	10.1	11.5	12.2	13.2	13.7	14.6	14.5	107
Condensed and evaporated milk	13.7	9.0	7.1	6.8	6.3	6.0	5.6	5.3	96
Fluid milk and cream (product weight)	321.0	303.0	296.0	296.0	298.0	293.0	288.0	291.0	101
Ice cream (product weight)	18.3	17.8	17.7	17.5	17.4	17.5	17.5	18.6	99
Fats and Oils—Total, fat content	45.3	49.4	53.3	52.2	54.2	54.3	53.2	53.3	104
Butter (actual weight)	7.5	5.5	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.8	90
Margarine (actual weight)	9.4	10.5	11.0	11.1	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.2	103
Lard	7.6	5.4	4.7	4.3	3.8	3.4	3.2	2.9	103
Shortening	12.6	15.9	17.3	16.8	17.7	17.3	17.0	17.3	105
Other edible fats and oils	11.5	15.2	18.2	18.0	19.7	20.8	20.3	20.3	107
Fruits:									
Fresh:	89.6	79.1	79.5	77.6	75.1	73.8	76.1	80.3	100
Citrus	32.5	30.6	27.7	28.2	26.3	26.4	26.5	27.9	97
Noncitrus	57.1	48.5	51.8	49.5	48.7	47.4	49.6	52.4	101
Processed:									
Canned fruit	22.6	22.6	23.3	21.9	21.4	21.3	19.8	18.9	106
Canned juice	13.0	11.7	14.6	15.9	15.5	15.9	14.7	14.7	99
Frozen (including juices)	9.1	10.1	9.8	10.2	10.1	11.2	11.3	12.7	100
Chilled citrus juices	2.1	4.4	4.7	4.8	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.7	109
Dried	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.0	2.6	2.5	2.6	108
Vegetables:									
Fresh[3]	96.0	90.8	91.0	91.8	90.7	92.4	93.2	92.8	104
Canned (excluding potatoes and sweetpotatoes)	43.4	49.0	51.1	51.2	52.2	54.3	53.4	53.4	105
Frozen (excluding potatoes)	7.0	9.0	9.6	9.7	9.9	10.6	10.2	9.6	99
Potatoes[4]	104.0	104.3	114.0	115.0	115.4	112.6	110.7	120.2	96
Sweetpotatoes[4]	6.5	5.3	5.2	4.5	4.7	4.7	5.1	5.0	100

See footnotes at end of table.

Civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities (retail weight)—Continued

Commodity	1960	1967	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975[2]	1976 forecast as percent of 1975
	Pounds								Pct.
Grains:									
Wheat flour[5]	118	112	110	110	109	109	106	107	100
Rice	6.1	7.5	6.7	7.7	7.0	7.0	7.6	7.6	105
Other:									
Coffee	11.6	11.1	10.5	10.0	10.5	10.1	9.4	9.0	97
Tea	.6	.7	.7	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	100
Cocoa	2.9	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.0	2.6	108
Peanuts (shelled)	4.9	5.7	5.9	5.9	6.2	6.6	6.4	6.8	101
Dry edible beans	7.3	6.9	5.9	5.9	6.4	6.5	6.7	6.7	98
Melons	23.2	20.3	21.2	20.5	19.9	19.7	17.2	17.5	100
Sugar (refined)	97.6	97.3	102.5	102.4	103.0	102.1	97.0	88.7	106

[1] Quantity in pounds, retail weight unless otherwise shown. Data on calendar year basis except for dried fruits, fresh citrus fruits, peanuts, and rice which are on a crop-year basis. [2] Preliminary. [3] Commercial production for sale as fresh produce. [4] Including fresh equivalent of processed. [5] White, whole wheat, and semolina flour including use in bakery products.

Note: Historical consumption and supply-utilization data for food may be found in *Food Consumption, Prices, and Expenditures*, Ag. Econ. Report 138 and annual supplements, ERS, USDA.

Per capita food consumption indexes[1]

Year	Meat	Poultry	Fish	Eggs	Dairy products[2]	Fats and oils: Animal[2]	Fats and oils: Vegetable	Fats and oils: Total	Fruits[3]: Fresh	Fruits[3]: Processed	Fruits[3]: Total
	1967=100										
1967	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1968	103	99	102	99	101	103	104	103	98	97	97
1969	102	103	102	98	100	95	110	105	98	102	100
1970	104	108	109	99	99	90	116	107	101	103	102
1971	107	109	105	97	99	90	113	105	98	106	102
1972	105	113	113	95	100	84	122	109	94	105	100
1973	98	107	119	91	99	78	127	110	93	110	102
1974	105	109	112	89	98	76	124	107	98	106	102
1975	101	106	111	86	99	76	122	106	103	112	108
1976[6]	106	115	113	86	100	70	133	110	103	114	109

Year	Vegetables[4]: Fresh	Vegetables[4]: Processed	Vegetables[4]: Total	Potatoes and sweetpotatoes: Fresh	Potatoes and sweetpotatoes: Processed	Cereal products	Sugar and sweeteners	Coffee tea, and cocoa	All food: Animal products	All food: Crops[5]	All food: Total
	1967=100										
1967	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100.0	100.0	100.0
1968	99	104	100	101	106	101	103	100	101.5	101.1	101.2
1969	99	104	101	94	118	101	104	97	101.2	102.0	101.5
1970	100	104	101	91	121	98	106	94	102.5	103.1	102.8
1971	99	105	101	87	124	99	106	92	103.8	102.8	103.3
1972	99	108	102	89	123	98	108	98	103.6	104.1	103.8
1973	100	113	104	82	126	98	110	96	99.1	105.3	101.9
1974	100	114	105	79	129	96	106	91	101.7	103.8	102.6
1975	100	113	105	90	130	97	98	87	99.8	103.9	101.6
1976[6]	101	114	106	85	134	97	103	86	103.1	105.4	104.3

[1] Civilian consumption only. Quantities of individual foods are combined in terms of 1957-59 retail prices. [2] Includes butter. [3] Excludes melons and baby food. [4] Excludes soup, baby food, dry beans and peas, potatoes, and sweetpotatoes. [5] Includes melons, dry beans and peas, nuts, soup, and baby food in addition to groups shown separately. [6] Preliminary.

LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS: PRICES, SUPPLIES AND USE

Dairy:

Items	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Milk production:										
Total milk (mil. lb.)	59,686	59,555	61,542	9,588	10,250	10,450	11,184	10,865	10,448	10,132
Milk per cow (lb.)	531	533	556	861	926	944	1,011	982	946	917
Number of milk cows (thou.)	11,235	11,182	11,070	11,139	11,072	11,072	11,061	11,061	11,050	11,047
Milk prices, Minnesota-Wisconsin, 3.5% fat ($/cwt.)[1]	7.56	6.93	8.47	7.70	8.60	8.44	8.30	8.32	8.71	8.99
Price of 16% dairy ration ($/ton)	129	135	137	135	136	135	137	143	145	144
Milk-feed price ratio (lb.)[2]	1.48	1.30	1.60	1.36	1.64	1.60	1.51	1.42	1.42	1.51
Stocks, beginning										
Total milk equiv. (mil. lb.)[3]	5,207	5,886	3,844	6,908	3,957	4,306	4,850	5,846	6,570	6,949
Commercial (mil. lb.)	4,732	5,576	3,719	5,459	3,889	4,225	4,766	5,751	6,470	6,835
Government (mil. lb.)	476	310	124	1,449	68	81	84	94	100	114
Imports, total milk equiv. (mil. lb.)[3]	1,861	580	794	106	139	111	118	142	138	
USDA net removals:										
Total milk equiv. (mil. lb.)[3]	588	2,341	84	-354.9	4.7	20.4	14.7	33.0	63.5	3.3
Butter:										
Production (mil. lb.)	519.0	579.6	534.7	57.7	89.3	87.6	94.0	84.0	72.4	–
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	46.4	49.2	10.9	97.8	16.5	31.2	44.5	69.1	80.9	83.0
Wholesale price, Grade A Chicago (cts./lb.)	65.0	68.4	87.9	83.6	86.0	89.5	89.9	95.0	105.8	106.2
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	24.5	81.8	.4	-17.4	0	.4	0	0	0	0
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	429.9	494.0	464.5	77.9	75.3	74.2	70.0	72.5	70.8	–
American cheese:										
Production (mil. lb.)	1,057.2	885.8	1,063.3	131.8	165.8	187.2	204.1	207.3	189.0	–
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	290.3	420.9	307.8	421.0	305.9	312.7	333.8	375.7	417.4	444.6
Wholesale price, Wisconsin assembly pt. (cts./lb.)	84.9	78.5	95.4	89.8	94.4	96.9	94.9	95.5	100.1	106.2
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	3.7	63.2	4.7	.1	0	.5	1.1	3.1	6.2	0
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	957.9	840.5	949.5	159.5	159.0	165.3	161.0	162.8	155.7	–
Other cheese:										
Production (mil. lb.)	536.3	563.6	632.6	95.1	109.1	109.8	109.5	112.8	107.6	–
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	67.5	73.1	60.8	64.2	60.0	58.5	59.3	60.0	63.3	66.8
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	616.1	630.3	700.3	108.6	120.6	121.0	120.3	123.7	119.9	–
Nonfat dry milk:										
Production (mil. lb.)	543.9	620.3	517.8	69.1	78.4	87.6	104.9	108.9	94.7	–
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	74.6	293.2	468.9	489.3	460.3	475.6	442.0	463.6	479.5	497.2
Wholesale price, avg. manf. (cts./lb.)	60.1	60.4	63.7	62.0	63.5	63.1	62.8	62.8	62.8	–
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	49.8	369.4	63.2	.5	5.9	5.6	16.0	22.5	27.6	10.6
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	489.2	274.9	382.7	90.5	66.8	63.8	66.0	63.3	67.8	–
Frozen dessert production (mil. gal.)[4]	552.6	580.9	572.4	119.0	102.0	99.9	100.6	118.1	119.2	–

[1] Manufacturing grade milk. [2] Pounds of ration equal in value to 1 lb. of milk. [3] Milk equivalent, fat-solids basis. [4] Ice cream, ice milk, and sherbet.

Meat animals:

Items	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Cattle on feed (7-States)										
Number on feed (thou. head)[1]	9,353	6,369	8,533	5,932	8,117	7,525	7,519	7,254	7,074	6,666
Placed on feed (thou. head)[2]	7,851	7,780	8,496	1,273	1,397	1,617	1,324	1,387	1,148	1,404
Marketings (thou. head)	9,195	7,614	9,284	1,213	1,857	1,502	1,489	1,457	1,500	1,586
Other disappearance (thou. head)	863	529	671	43	132	121	100	110	56	52
Beef steer-corn price ratio, Omaha (bu.)[3]	15.9	14.7	15.0	15.0	13.8	16.6	14.8	14.2	13.4	13.8
Hog-corn price ratio, Omaha (bu.)[3]	12.2	14.9	18.1	18.6	17.7	18.3	17.7	17.6	16.8	16.2
Commercial slaughter (thou. head)										
Cattle	17,331	19,283	21,080	3,467	3,813	3,354	3,238	3,576	3,483	–
Steers	9,880	9,423	9,365	1,446	1,762	1,506	1,496	1,670	1,651	–
Heifers	4,027	4,736	6,143	901	1,174	999	923	987	940	–
Cows	3,080	4,643	5,078	1,019	797	765	738	826	808	–
Bulls and stags	344	481	494	101	80	84	81	93	84	–
Calves	1,199	2,205	2,566	466	496	419	367	410	410	–
Sheep and lambs	4,302	3,870	3,277	648	587	590	448	524	547	–
Hogs	41,163	36,567	34,251	4,883	6,612	6,087	5,331	5,400	5,132	–
Commercial production (mil. lb.)										
Beef	11,072	11,435	12,634	1,961	2,318	2,017	1,966	2,161	2,110	–
Veal	167	348	384	73	71	59	56	63	62	–
Lamb and mutton	228	198	176	32	33	32	23	27	28	–
Pork	6,909	5,967	5,677	794	1,092	1,003	879	899	848	–
Market prices	Dol. per 100 pounds									
Slaughter cattle:										
Choice steers, Omaha	42.73	41.88	40.06	46.80	36.14	43.12	40.62	40.52	37.92	37.02
Utility cows, Omaha	30.07	20.50	27.51	21.29	27.45	30.72	30.24	27.47	25.80	25.10
Choice vealers, S. St Paul	58.77	40.43	47.42	37.10	50.58	49.49	44.95	37.60	34.51	41.52
Feeder cattle:										
Choice, Kansas City, 600-700 lb.	43.79	31.03	41.54	34.34	39.69	44.62	44.21	42.83	39.18	38.94
Slaughter hogs:										
Barrows and Gilts, No. 1&2, Omaha[4]	34.82	43.60	49.62	58.89	47.23	48.86	49.78	51.91	48.96	44.64
Barrows and Gilts, 7-markets	33.20	42.73	48.59	58.10	46.71	47.89	48.89	50.80	48.26	44.00
Feeder pigs:										
S. Mo. 40-50 lb. (per head)	28.67	39.55	47.01	46.75	48.80	51.28	44.57	38.85	30.45	31.02
Slaughter sheep and lambs:										
Lambs, Choice, San Angelo	42.71	43.96	55.06	40.75	56.25	62.95	62.12	50.81	47.81	40.62
Ewes, Good, San Angelo	18.64	16.02	18.08	13.44	18.90	18.44	19.75	17.56	19.44	17.69
Feeder lambs:										
Choice, San Angelo	39.86	39.88	54.20	38.75	56.30	62.71	59.56	48.56	49.38	45.94
Wholesale meat prices, Midwest[5]										
Choice steer beef, 600-700 lb.	68.85	69.30	62.96	77.95	56.97	65.85	63.56	62.45	58.20	57.05
Canner and Cutter cow beef	62.38	42.60	55.55	43.67	56.44	60.48	59.12	54.88	53.48	51.62
Pork loins, 8-14 lb.	71.27	83.96	93.09	105.51	85.25	87.60	94.67	97.88	97.40	85.26
Pork bellies, 12-14 lb.	46.25	68.20	72.62	105.46	67.48	73.62	73.04	79.16	74.10	73.58
Hams, skinned, 14-17 lb.	59.95	72.17	83.07	91.08	85.48	84.19	82.86	81.76	77.32	74.66

	First Half			1975				1976		
	1974	1975	1976	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III
Cattle on feed (23-States):										
Number on feed (thou. head)[1]	13,067	9,619	12,296	9,619	8,473	8,542	9,301	12,296	10,892	10,036
Placed on feed (thou. head)[2]	10,554	10,308	11,058	4,758	5,550	6,025	8,317	5,459	5,599	–
Marketings (thou. head)	12,270	10,540	11,920	5,512	5,028	5,014	4,940	6,350	5,937	[7]5,983
Other disappearance (thou. head)	1,304	845	1,031	392	453	252	382	513	518	–
Hogs and pigs (14-States):[6]										
Inventory (thou. head)[1]	52,825	47,170	41,855	47,170	40,330	40,955	41,535	41,855	40,865	44,918
Breeding (thou. head)[1]	7,445	6,283	6,368	6,283	6,080	6,191	6,011	6,368	6,706	6,916
Market (thou. head)[1]	45,380	40,887	35,487	40,887	34,250	34,764	35,524	35,487	34,159	38,002
Farrowings (thou. head)	5,591	5,503	4,206	1,778	2,428	2,088	2,103	2,047	2,815	[7]2,415
Pig crop (thou. head)	39,834	38,703	30,009	12,540	17,469	15,020	15,182	14,552	20,743	–

[1] Beginning of period. [2] Other disappearance excluded in 1973; not comparable with 1974 and 1975. [3] Bushels of corn equal in value to 100 pounds liveweight. [4] 220-240 lb. [5] Prior to Oct. 1975, Chicago; annual 1975 midwest markets. [6] Annual is Dec. preceding year to Nov. listed; quarters are Dec. preceding year-Feb. (I), Mar-May (II), June-Aug (III), and Sept-Nov (IV). [7] Intentions.

Poultry and eggs:

Items	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Eggs										
Farm production (mil.)	33,472	32,031	32,319	5,402	5,561	5,333	5,452	5,264	5,393	5,378
Average number of layers on farms (mil.)	290	278	275	271	277	273	270	269	268	270
Rate of lay (eggs per layer)	115.3	115.4	117.6	19.9	20.0	19.6	20.2	19.6	20.1	19.9
Wholesale price, New York, grade A large (cts./doz.)	56.7	54.5	59.7	58.2	56.8	55.4	58.4	58.8	63.1	68.6
Price of laying feed ($/ton)	146	148	146	150	145	144	146	156	162	158
Egg-feed price ratio (lb.)[1]	7.3	6.9	7.8	6.8	7.5	7.4	7.6	6.9	6.9	7.7
Stocks, beginning of period:										
Shell (thou. cases)	34	36	22	84	21	26	26	22	25	58
Frozen (mil. lb.)	43.2	54.2	36.3	52.1	28.7	29.3	29.4	29.1	30.3	31.6
Replacement chicks hatched (mil.)	269.0	253.0	264.2	34.9	49.1	50.8	47.6	41.9	38.0	38.1
Broilers										
Federally inspected slaughter, certified (mil. lb.)	4,060.8	3,894.5	4,430.2	680.5	771.9	742.5	745.4	825.9	766.0	–
Wholesale price, 9-city, (cts./lb.)	37.3	42.5	41.9	50.0	41.9	41.0	42.1	42.1	43.2	41.6
Price of broiler grower feed ($/ton)	160	165	162	163	160	159	161	172	181	177
Broiler-feed price ratio (lb.)[1]	2.6	3.0	3.0	3.6	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.7
Stocks, beginning of period (mil. lb.)	33.4	37.2	22.3	21.7	19.4	18.9	19.0	17.4	20.0	25.7
Average weekly placements of broiler chicks, 21 States (mil.)	61.8	58.8	65.6	57.6	66.3	68.3	67.8	68.4	64.8	63.5
Turkeys										
Federally inspected slaughter, certified (mil. lb.)	569.2	455.4	575.2	203.3	68.6	79.9	106.5	182.2	213.9	–
Wholesale price, New York, 8-16 lb. young hens (cts./lb.)	45.0	49.8	48.8	58.0	51.7	48.2	48.9	47.6	49.5	48.1
Price of turkey grower feed ($/ton)	164	167	167	168	165	162	165	178	187	181
Turkey-feed price ratio (lb.)[1]	3.6	3.7	3.9	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.4
Stocks, beginning of period (mil. lb.)	281.0	275.0	195.2	248.6	159.9	140.0	114.5	120.5	177.8	262.0
Poults hatched (mil.)	102.1	92.1	102.2	8.6	18.5	19.7	20.2	19.6	15.4	8.1

[1] Pounds of feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs or 1 lb. of broiler or turkey liveweight.

Wool:

	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
U.S. wool price, Boston[1] (cts./lb.)	199	130	177	171	174	176	178	178	183	183
Imported wool price, Boston[2] (cts./lb.)	242	180	208	172	([3])	([3])	210	212	212	214
U.S. mill consumption, scoured										
Apparel wool (thou. lb.)	40,716	42,451	57,660	8,073	11,996	9,066	8,756	11,064	7,630	–
Carpet wool (thou. lb.)	11,310	7,699	7,049	1,683	1,357	900	1,024	1,412	878	–

[1] Wool price delivered at U.S. mills, clean basis, 64's (20.60-22.04 microns) staple 2-3/4" and up. Prior to January 1976 reported as: Territory fine, good French combing and staple. [2] Wool price delivered at U.S. mills, clean basis, Australian 64's, type 78, including duty (25.5 cents). Prior to January 1976 reported as: Australian 64's combing, excluding duty. [3] No quotes due to strike.

CROPS AND PRODUCTS: PRICES, SUPPLIES AND USE

Supply and utilization of major crops[1]

Commodity	Domestic measure[2]					Metric measure[2]				
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76 Preliminary	1976/77 Projected		1973/74	1974/75	1975/76 Preliminary	1976/77 Projected	
Wheat:										
			Mil. acres					Mil. hectares		
Area										
Set aside	7.4	—	—	—		3.0	—	—	—	
Planted	59.0	71.4	75.1	80.2		23.9	28.9	30.4	32.5	
Harvested	53.9	65.6	69.7	70.4		21.8	26.5	28.2	28.5	
			Bu. per acre					Metric tons per hectare		
Yield per harvested unit	31.7	27.4	30.6	30.4		2.13	1.84	2.06	2.04	
			Mil. bu.					Mil. metric tons		
Beginning stocks	599	339	430	665		16.3	9.2	11.7	18.1	
Production	1,705	1,796	2,134	2,139		46.4	48.9	58.1	58.2	
Imports	1	3	2	2		(6)	.2	.1	.1	
Supply, total	2,307	2,138	2,566	2,806		62.8	58.2	69.8	76.4	
Domestic	751	690	728	810	±35	20.4	18.8	19.8	22.0	±1.0
Exports	1,217	1,018	1,173	1,050	±100	33.1	27.7	31.9	28.6	±2.7
Use, total	1,968	1,708	1,901	1,860	±90	53.6	46.5	51.7	50.6	±2.4
Ending stocks	339	430	665	946	±90	9.2	11.7	18.1	25.7	±2.4
			Dol. per bu.					Dol. per metric ton		
Price received by farmers	3.95	4.09	3.52	[3]3.24		145.14	150.28	129.34	[3]119.05	
Price, Kansas City, No. 1 HRW	4.51	4.20	3.74	[3]3.53		165.71	154.32	137.42	[3]129.71	
Rice:										
			Mil. acres					Mil. hectares		
Area										
Allotment	2.22	2.10	1.80	1.80		.90	.85	.73	.73	
Planted	2.18	2.56	2.82	2.45		.88	1.05	1.14	.99	
Harvested	2.17	2.54	2.80	2.43		.88	1.04	1.13	.98	
			Lb. per acre					Metric tons per hectare		
Yield per harvested unit	4,274	4,432	4,555	4,528		4.79	4.97	5.11	5.08	
			Mil. cwt.					Mil. metric tons		
Beginning stocks	5.1	7.8	7.1	36.9		.23	.35	.32	1.67	
Production	92.8	112.4	127.6	110.2	±3.0	4.21	5.10	5.79	5.00	±.14
Imports	.2	—	—	—		.01	—	—	—	
Supply, total	98.1	120.2	134.7	147.1	±3.0	4.45	5.45	6.11	6.67	±.14
Domestic	37.0	41.0	40.2	42.8	±1.0	1.68	1.86	1.82	1.94	±.05
Exports	49.7	69.5	56.5	61.5	±5.0	2.25	3.16	2.56	2.79	±.23
Use, total	86.7	110.5	96.7	104.3	±5.0	3.93	5.01	4.39	4.73	±.23
Ending stocks	7.8	7.1	36.9	42.8	±7.0	.35	.32	1.67	1.94	±.32
Difference unaccounted	+3.6	+2.7	+1.1	—		.17	.12	.05	—	
			Dol. per cwt.					Dol. per metric ton		
Price received by farmers	13.80	11.20	7.93	[3]6.44		304.24	246.92	174.83	[3]141.98	
Price, long-grain milled, S.W. La.	30.40	21.50	17.20	[3]14.70		670.65	473.99	379.19	[3]324.08	

See footnotes at end of table.

Supply and utilization of major crops[1] --Continued

Commodity	Domestic measure[2]					Metric measures[2]				
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76 Preliminary	1976/77 Projected		1973/74	1974/75	1975/76 Preliminary	1976/77 Projected	
Feed grains:[5]										
	Mil. acres					Mil. hectares				
Area										
Set aside	9.4	—	—	—		3.8	—	—	—	
Planted	121.4	122.5	123.1	129.3		49.1	49.6	49.8	52.3	
Harvested	102 3	100.6	104.8	107.0		41.4	40.7	42.4	43.3	
	Short tons per acre					Metric tons per hectare				
Yield per harvested unit	2.00	1.64	1.93	1.89		4.49	3.69	4.33	4.24	
	Mil. short tons					Mil. metric tons				
Beginning stocks	33.9	23.7	16.8	16.8		30.8	21.5	15.2	15.2	
Production	205.0	165.3	202.4	202.4		186.0	150.0	183.5	183.6	
Imports	.2	.6	.5	.4		.2	.5	.5	.4	
Supply, total	239.1	189.6	219.7	219.6		216.9	172.0	199.2	199.2	
Feed	153.3	115.7	130.1	132.6	±5	139.1	105.0	118.0	120.3	±5
Food, seed, and industrial uses	17.6	17.7	18.1	18.8		16.0	16.1	16.4	17.1	
Domestic, total	170.9	133.4	148.2	151.4	±5	155.0	121.1	134.4	137.4	±5
Exports	44.5	39.4	54.7	50.0	±4	40.4	35.7	49.6	45.4	±4
Use, total	215.4	172.8	202.9	201.4	±4	195.4	156.8	184.0	182.8	±4
Ending stocks	23.7	16.8	16.8	18.2	±4	21.5	15.2	15.2	16.4	±4
Corn:										
	Mil. acres					Mil. hectares				
Area										
Set aside	6.0	—	—	—		2.4	—	—	—	
Planted	71.9	77.8	77.9	84.1		29.1	31.5	31.5	34.0	
Harvested	61.9	65.4	66.9	71.2		25.0	26.5	27.1	28.8	
	Bu. per acre					Metric tons per hectare				
Yield per harvested unit	91.2	71.4	86.2	82.8		5.73	4.47	5.41	5.20	
	Mil. bu.					Mil. metric tons				
Beginning stocks	709	483	359	313		18.0	12.3	9.1	8.0	
Production	5,647	4,664	5,767	5,892		143.4	118.5	146.5	149.7	
Imports	1	2	2	1		(6)	.1	.1	(6)	
Supply, total	6,357	5,149	6,128	6,206		161.4	130.8	155.7	157.7	
Feed	4,193	3,191	3,650	3,750	±150	106.4	81.1	92.7	95.3	±4
Food, seed, and industrial uses	438	450	465	485		11.1	11.4	11.8	12.3	
Domestic, total	4,631	3,641	4,115	4,235	±150	117.5	92.5	104.5	107.6	±4
Exports	1,243	1,149	1,700	1,550	±100	31.6	29.2	43.2	39.4	±3
Use, total	5,874	4,790	5,815	5,785	±100	149.1	121.7	147.7	147.0	±3
Ending stocks	483	359	313	421	±100	12.3	9.1	8.0	10.7	±3
	Dol. per bu.					Dol. per metric ton				
Price received by farmers	2.55	3.03	[4] 2.55	—		100.39	119.28	[4] 100.39	—	
Price, Chi., No. 2 yellow	2.95	3.12	[3] 2.75	—		116.14	122.83	[3] 108.26	—	

See footnotes at end of table.

Supply and utilization of major crops[1] —Continued

Commodity	Domestic Measure[2]					Metric Measure[2]				
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76 Preliminary	1976/77 Projected		1973/74	1974/75	1975/76 Preliminary	1976/77 Projected	
Cotton:[7]										
	Mil. acres					Mil. hectares				
Area										
Set aside	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	
Planted	12.5	13.7	9.5	11.8		5.1	5.5	3.8	4.8	
Harvested	12.0	12.6	8.8	11.1		4.8	5.1	3.6	4.5	
	Lb. per acre					Metric tons per hectare				
Yield per harvested unit	520	441	453	451		.58	.49	.51	.51	
	Mil. 480-lb. bales					Mil. metric tons				
Beginning stocks	[8]4.2	[8]3.8	[8]5.7	3.7		.9	.8	1.2	.8	
Production	13.0	11.5	8.3	10.4		2.8	2.5	1.8	2.3	
Supply, total[9]	17.2	15.4	14.1	14.1		3.8	3.3	3.1	3.1	
Mill use	7.5	5.9	7.3	6.7	±.3	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.5	±.1
Exports	6.1	3.9	3.3	4.4	±.3	1.3	.9	.7	1.0	±.1
Use, total	13.6	9.8	10.6	11.1	±.3	3.0	2.1	2.3	2.4	±.1
Difference unaccounted[10]	.2	.1	.1	.2		(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)	
Ending stocks	[8]3.8	[8]5.7	3.7	3.2	±.3	.8	1.2	.8	.7	±.1
	Cts. per lb.					Cts. per kilogram				
Price received by farmers	44.4	42.7	[4]49.9	—		97.9	94.1	[4]110.0	—	
Price, SLM, 1-1/16 in., spot	67.1	41.7	58.0	[3]73.2		147.9	91.9	127.8	(3)	
Soybeans:										
	Mil. acres					Mil. hectares				
Area										
Planted	56.7	53.5	54.6	50.3		22.9	21.7	22.1	20.4	
Harvested	55.8	52.4	53.6	49.4		22.6	21.2	21.7	20.0	
	Bu. per acre					Metric tons per hectare				
Yield per harvested unit	27.7	23.2	28.4	25.8		1.86	1.56	1.91	1.74	
	Mil. bu.					Mil. metric tons				
Beginning stocks	60	171	185	244		1.7	4.7	5.0	6.6	
Production	1,547	1,215	1,521	1,274		42.1	33.1	41.4	34.7	
Supply, total	1,607	1,386	1,706	1,518		43.8	37.8	46.4	41.3	
Crushings	821	701	866	785	±30	22.3	19.1	23.5	21.4	±.8
Exports	539	421	555	525	±30	14.7	11.5	15.1	14.3	±.8
Seed, feed, and residual	76	79	41	83		2.1	2.2	1.1	2.3	
Use, total	1,436	1,201	1,462	1,393	±60	39.1	32.8	39.8	37.9	±1.6
Ending stocks	171	185	244	125	±30	4.7	5.0	6.6	3.4	±.8
	Dol. per bu.					Dol. per metric ton				
Price received by farmers	5.68	6.64	[4]5.00	—		208.70	243.98	[4]183.72	—	
Price, Chi., No. 1 yellow	6.12	6.33	[3]5.25	—		224.81	232.59	[3]192.90	—	

See footnotes at end of table.

Supply and utilization of major crops[1] —Continued

Commodity	Domestic measure[2]					Metric measure[2]				
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76 Preliminary	1976/77 Projected		1973/74	1974/75	1975/76 Preliminary	1976/77 Projected	
Soybean oil:	Mil. lb.					Thou. metric tons				
Beginning stocks	516	794	561	1,300		234	360	254	590	
Production	8,995	7,376	9,539	8,320	±300	4,080	3,346	4,327	3,774	±136
Supply, total	9,511	8,170	10,100	9,620	±300	4,314	3,706	4,581	4,364	±136
Domestic	7,282	6,581	7,900	7,600	±200	3,303	2,985	3,583	3,447	±91
Exports	1,435	1,028	900	1,100	±200	651	466	408	499	±91
Use, total	8,717	7,609	8,800	8,700	±400	3,954	3,451	3,992	3,946	±181
Ending stocks	794	561	1,300	920	±400	360	254	590	417	±181
	Cts. per lb.					Cts. per kilogram				
Price, crude, Decatur	31.5	30.7	[3] 17.9	—		69.4	67.7	[3] 39.5	—	
Soybean meal:	Thou. short tons					Thou. metric tons				
Beginning stocks	183	507	358	410		166	460	325	372	
Production	19,674	16,702	20,652	18,640	±750	17,848	15,152	18,735	16,910	±680
Supply, total	19,857	17,209	21,010	19,050	±750	18,014	15,612	19,060	17,282	±680
Domestic	13,802	12,552	15,500	14,000	±700	12,521	11,387	14,061	12,701	±635
Exports	5,548	4,299	5,100	4,600	±300	5,033	3,900	4,627	4,173	±272
Use, total	19,350	16,851	20,600	18,600	±1,000	17,554	15,287	18,688	16,874	±907
Ending stocks	507	358	410	450	±150	460	325	372	408	±136
	Dol. per short ton					Dol. per metric ton				
Price, bulk, Decatur, 44%	146.35	130.86	[3] 144.92	—		161.32	144.25	[3] 159,75	—	

[1] Marketing years beginning June 1 for wheat, barley, and oats, August 1 for cotton and rice, September 1 for soybeans, and October 1 for corn, sorghum, and soybean oil and meal. [2] Conversions between measures may not exactly convert or add due to rounding. Conversion factors: Hectare (ha.) = 2.471 acres; and 1 metric ton = 2,204.622 pounds, 36.7437 bushels of wheat or soybeans, 39.3679 bushels of corn or sorghum, 45.9296 bushels of barley, 68.8944 bushels of oats, 22.046 cwt. of rice, and 4.59 480-pound bales of cotton. [3] Average for beginning of marketing year through August 1976. [4] Season average estimate. [5] Corn, sorghum, oats, and barley. [6] Less than 0.05. [7] Upland and extra long staple. [8] Based on Census Bureau data. [9] Includes imports. [10] Difference between ending stocks based on Census Bureau data and preceding season's supply less distribution.

Feed grains:

	Marketing year[1]			1975	1976					
	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Wholesale prices:										
Corn, No. 2 yellow, Chicago ($/bu.)	1.91	2.95	3.12	3.12	2.68	2.68	2.84	2.96	2.96	2.87
Sorghum, No. 2 yellow, Kansas City ($/cwt.)	3.24	4.64	5.01	5.13	4.62	4.47	4.49	4.66	4.73	4.29
Barley, feed, Minneapolis ($/bu.)[2]	1.17	2.03	2.58	2.77	2.38	2.39	2.50	2.52	2.45	2.48
Barley, malting, Minneapolis ($/bu.)[2]	1.43	2.67	4.16	3.65	3.22	3.17	3.22	3.55	3.59	3.37
Exports:										
Corn (mil. bu.)	1,258	1,243	1,149	90	130	165	154	161	139	[4]125
Feed grains (mil. short tons)[3]	43.1	44.5	39.4	3.1	4.2	5.2	4.6	4.8	4.6	[4]4.4

	Marketing year[1]			1975				1976		
	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	Jan-Mar	Apr-May	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-May	June-Sept
Corn:										
Stocks, beginning (mil. bu.)	1,126	709	483	3,621	2,214	1,492	359	4,431	2,812	1,857
Domestic use:										
Feed (mil. bu.)	4,304	4,183	3,191	916	458	668	1,130	1,099	551	–
Food, seed, ind. (mil. bu.)	429	448	450	111	86	147	112	115	85	–
Feed grains:[3]										
Stocks, beginning (mil. short tons)	50.0	33.9	23.7	125.6	76.3	51.2	29.3	152.0	95.3	62.7
Domestic use:										
Feed (mil. short tons)	156.4	153.3	115.6	32.5	15.7	24.7	41.2	39.1	19.0	–
Food, seed, ind. (mil. short tons)	17.0	17.6	17.7	4.3	3.9	5.6	4.1	4.3	3.9	–

[1] Beginning October 1 for corn and sorghum; June 1 for oats and barley. [2] No. 3 or better. [3] Aggregated data for corn, sorghum, oats and barley. Note change in oats and barley marketing year to June-May. [4] Based on inspections for export.

Food grains:

	Marketing year[1]			1975	1976					
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Wholesale prices:										
Wheat, No. 1 HRW, Kansas City ($/bu.)[2]	4.51	4.20	3.74	4.12	3.81	3.61	3.57	3.75	3.63	3.21
Wheat, DNS, Minneapolis ($/bu.)[2]	4.42	4.57	3.74	4.23	3.62	3.47	3.56	3.82	3.63	3.14
Flour, Kansas City ($/cwt.)	10.30	10.19	9.25	9.36	9.56	9.06	8.71	8.84	n.a.	8.08
Flour, Minneapolis ($/cwt.)	10.60	11.40	10.41	10.51	10.71	10.25	10.08	10.35	10.29	9.44
Rice, S.W. La. ($/cwt.)[3]	30.40	21.50	17.20	20.55	15.50	15.30	16.60	16.50	16.25	14.70
Wheat:										
Exports (mil. bu.)	1,217	1,018	1,173	114	79	81	73	73	73	90
Mill grind (mil. bu.)	551	538	574	49	49	47	49	48	50	–
Wheat flour production (mil. cwt.)	247	239	255	22	22	21	21	21	22	–

	Marketing year[1]			1975				1976		
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	Jan-Mar	Apr-May	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-May	June-Sept
Wheat:										
Stocks, beginning (mil. bu.)	599	339	430	1,108	662	430	1,891	1,384	936	665
Domestic use:										
Food (mil. bu.)	530	521	559	123	89	186	144	140	89	–
Feed and seed (mil. bu.)[4]	221	169	169	68	-7	59	21	61	28	–
Exports (mil. bu.)	1,217	1,018	1,173	255	150	429	343	247	154	–

[1] Beginning June 1 for wheat and August 1 for rice. [2] Ordinary protein. [3] Long-grain, milled basis. [4] Feed use approximated by residual. Note change in wheat marketing year to June-May.

Fats and oils:

	Marketing year[1]			1975	1976					
	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Soybeans:										
Wholesale price, No. 1 yellow, Chicago ($/bu.)	6.27	6.12	6.33	5.97	4.66	4.71	5.21	6.25	6.64	6.30
Crushings (mil. bu.)	721.8	821.3	701.3	64.0	77.9	77.2	79.6	74.6	71.0	–
Processing margin ($/bu.)[2]	.59	.72	.14	.20	.10	.06	.11	.15	.25	–
Exports (mil. bu.)	479.4	539.1	420.7	33.4	52.3	50.5	49.5	47.2	29.2	–
Soybean oil:										
Wholesale price, crude, Decatur (cts./lb.)	16.5	31.5	30.7	28.5	16.6	16.3	15.8	17.6	20.9	20.4
Production (mil. lb.)	7,501.0	8,994.7	7,376.2	674.5	852.4	846.1	869.8	813.9	792.7	–
Domestic disappearance (mil. lb.)	6,685.0	7,255.4	6,518.5	636.5	723.1	666.2	657.1	569.3	760.5	–
Exports (mil. lb.)	1,065.6	1,435.2	1,028.3	13.4	89.8	55.6	161.2	74.6	77.8	–
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	785.0	515.5	793.5	544.3	913.2	946.1	1,060.9	1,108.6	1,274.5	1,225.3
Soybean meal:										
Wholesale price, 44% protein, Decatur ($/ton)	229.00	146.35	130.86	134.40	127.90	127.10	152.25	187.90	193.90	173.30
Production (thou. ton)	16,708.8	19,674.4	16,701.5	1,532.5	1,820.0	1,830.2	1,890.8	1,771.8	1,676.5	–
Domestic disappearance (thou. ton)	11,920.5	13,766.3	12,501.3	1,150.9	1,383.2	1,173.0	1,403.7	1,383.0	1,235.4	–
Exports (thou. ton)	4,744.8	5,547.6	4,298.8	371.7	498.0	644.4	380.1	474.8	384.3	–
Stocks, beginning (thou. ton)	191.7	183.2	507.3	394.8	419.5	358.3	358.8	462.8	369 7	426.5
Margarine, wholesale price, Chicago (cts./lb.)	30.2	44.3	37.9	38.1	31.0	31.0	30.8	30.0	31.8	30.0

[1] Beginning September 1 for soybeans; October 1 for soy meal and oil; calendar year 1973, 1974 and 1975 for margarine. [2] Spot basis, Illinois shipping points.

Fruit:

	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Wholesale price indexes:										
Fresh fruit (1967=100)	137.4	164.1	154.5	154.1	150.9	160.1	152.7	149.9	158.7	155.6
Dried fruit (1967=100)	255.6	216.1	209.6	212.4	209.4	210.3	210.3	211.9	214.9	217.1
Canned fruit and juice (1967=100)	148.1	175.1	170.3	173.5	169.2	169.3	171.2	173.5	174.9	177.3
Frozen fruit and juice (1967=100)	141.4	155.1	160.9	154.9	159.4	161.9	161.9	161.9	152.3	152.3
F.o.b. shipping point prices:										
Apples, Yakima Valley ($/ctn.)[1]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7.22	6.92	6.07	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Pears, Yakima Valley ($/box)[2]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8.27	8.50	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Oranges, U.S. avg. ($/box)	6.62	6.45	6.27	6.54	6.16	6.06	5.93	6.43	7.00	6.99
Grapefruit, U.S. avg. ($/box)	5.26	6.36	5.73	6.70	5.57	5.46	6.00	6.26	6.38	7.17
Stocks, beginning:										
Fresh apples (mil. lb.)	2,074.2	2,214.1	2,569.3	13.4	1,569.3	1,111.7	778.7	433.3	174.0	53.3
Fresh pears (mil. lb.)	128.6	170.5	162.2	24.4	91.6	62.5	35.7	10.9	.3	58.4
Frozen fruit (mil. lb.)	516.3	607.3	558.3	584.4	450.4	388.4	338.4	331.9	379.5	457.2
Frozen fruit juices (mil. lb.)	853.4	883.0	970.5	1,388.4	1,281.2	1,293.2	1,352.8	1,469.4	1,604.5	1,455.3

[1] Red Delicious, regular storage, Washington extra fancy, carton tray pack, 80-125's. [2] D'Anjou pears, regular storage, Washington wrapped, U.S. No. 1, 90-135's. n.a. not available.

Cotton:

	Marketing year[1]			1975	1976					
	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
U.S. price, SLM, 1-1/16 in. (cts./lb.)[2]	67.1	41.7	58.0	48.4	55.5	57.2	62.1	72.7	78.7	73.2
Northern Europe prices:										
Index (cts./lb.)[3]	76.3	52.5	65.3	55.6	66.2	66.5	70.4	79.8	88.3	84.9
U.S., SM 1-1/16 in. (cts./lb.)[4]	78.3	56.4	71.4	63.1	70.3	70.3	75.4	83.2	87.5	83.8
U.S. mill consumption (thou. bales)	7,448.4	5,833.7	7,237.4	527.2	738.3	559.5	570.8	717.0	471.6	–
Exports (thou. bales)	6,123.0	3,925.9	3,311.3	340.2	396.2	313.2	341.0	327.9	287.4	–

[1] Beginning August 1. [2] Average spot market. [3] Liverpool Outlook "A" index; average of five lowest priced of 10 selected growths. [4] Memphis territory growths.

Vegetables:

	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Wholesale prices:										
Potatoes, white, f.o.b. East ($/cwt.)	9.70	4.36	6.92	5.86	7.54	8.33	7.17	5.37	4.89	5.30
Iceberg lettuce ($/ctrn.)[1]	2.70	2.54	3.08	2.86	3.77	3.82	2.33	2.99	4.99	4.12
Tomatoes ($/ctrn.)[2]	6.21	6.88	6.86	4.32	8.90	7.81	5.73	7.58	4.49	5.10
Wholesale price index, 10 canned veg. (1967=100)	132	171	156	169	155	158	158	156	156	158
Grower price index, fresh commercial veg. (1967=100)	154	176	168	157	179	177	140	157	168	166

[1] Std. carton 24's, f.o.b. shipping point. [2] 2 layers, 5 x 6-6 x 6, f.o.b. Fla.-Cal.

Tobacco:

	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Prices at auctions:										
Flue-cured (cts./lb.)	–	–	–	95.2	–	–	–	–	98.7	108.7
Burley (cts./lb.)	91.8	106.3	92.6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Domestic consumption:[1]										
Cigarettes (bil.)	295.2	289.3	320.1	50.4	58.8	49.6	50.4	58.4	44.0	–
Large cigars (mil.)	2,437	2,284	2,147	483.0	488.7	461.3	433.5	475.5	394.9	–

[1] Taxable removals.

Sugar:

	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Wholesale price, N.Y. ($/cwt.)[1]	19.40	27.67	15.44	21.11	16.27	15.58	15.97	14.40	14.59	11.32
U.S. deliveries (thou. short tons)[1] [2]	5,668	4,337	5,301	996	970	876	927	993	[3] 983	[3] 1,022

[1] Raw value. [2] Excludes Hawaii. [3] Preliminary.

GENERAL ECONOMIC DATA

Gross national product and related data

Items	First Half			1974		1975				1976	
	1974	1975	1976	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
	Bil. $ (Quarterly data seasonally adjusted at annual rates)										
Gross national product[1]	1,386.0	1,464.2	1,655.7	1,431.6	1,449.2	1,446.2	1,482.3	1,548.7	1,588.2	1,636.2	1,675.2
Personal consumption expenditures	866.0	946.8	1,054.2	906.8	911.1	933.2	960.3	987.3	1,012.0	1,043.6	1,064.7
Durable goods	120.6	124.6	153.2	128.0	117.4	122.1	127.0	136.0	141.8	151.4	155.0
Nondurable goods	366.2	400.1	432.0	383.8	388.5	394.4	405.8	414.6	421.6	429.1	434.8
Clothing and shoes	64.6	68.0	73.4	66.2	65.0	66.6	69.3	71.3	73.0	73.5	73.2
Food and beverages	184.0	205.5	221.2	193.7	198.0	203.2	207.8	211.8	215.2	219.2	223.1
Services	379.2	422.0	469.0	394.9	405.2	416.7	427.4	436.7	448.6	463.2	474.9
Gross private domestic investment	217.6	168.4	234.4	213.3	211.5	172.4	164.4	196.7	201.4	229.6	239.2
Fixed investment	204.8	194.4	219.0	206.0	201.7	194.6	194.3	198.6	205.7	214.7	223.2
Nonresidential	147.0	146.9	155.6	150.9	151.9	148.0	145.8	146.1	148.7	153.4	157.9
Residential	57.8	47.6	63.3	55.0	49.8	46.6	48.6	52.6	57.0	61.3	65.3
Change in business inventories	12.8	-26.1	15.4	7.3	9.7	-22.2	-30.0	-2.0	-4.3	14.8	16.0
Net exports of goods and services	9.4	19.7	8.8	2.9	8.1	15.0	24.4	21.4	21.0	8.4	9.3
Exports	137.7	145.2	157.2	148.4	153.8	147.5	142.9	148.2	153.7	154.1	160.3
Imports	128.2	125.5	148.4	145.5	145.7	132.5	118.5	126.8	132.7	145.7	151.0
Government purchases of goods and services	293.0	329.4	358.4	308.6	318.5	325.6	333.2	343.2	353.8	354.7	362.0
Federal	107.5	121.4	130.2	113.5	118.1	120.3	122.4	124.6	130.4	129.2	131.2
State and local	185.5	208.1	228.2	195.1	200.4	205.3	210.9	218.6	223.4	225.5	230.9
	1972 Bil. $ (Quarterly data seasonally adjusted at annual rates)										
Gross national product	1,225.6	1,169.1	1,253.2	1,212.9	1,191.7	1,161.1	1,177.1	1,209.3	1,219.2	1,246.3	1,260.0
Personal consumption expenditures	761.8	761.0	804.6	764.7	748.1	754.6	767.5	775.3	783.9	800.7	808.6
Durable goods	115.0	107.2	124.8	116.1	103.1	106.0	108.4	115.1	118.0	124.3	125.2
Nondurable goods	304.6	303.9	316.1	304.9	299.8	300.6	307.2	306.8	309.5	314.6	317.6
Clothing and shoes	59.7	59.8	63.0	59.0	57.3	58.6	61.0	62.1	63.4	63.3	62.6
Food and beverages	146.8	149.8	156.5	149.4	147.1	148.5	151.2	150.4	151.9	155.3	157.7
Services	342.4	349.9	363.8	343.7	345.1	348.0	351.8	353.4	356.4	361.8	365.8
Gross private domestic investment	191.4	127.8	169.4	176.2	169.1	129.3	126.2	148.7	147.0	167.1	171.7
Fixed investment	181.0	148.6	158.6	171.1	161.1	149.8	147.4	149.7	152.5	156.7	160.6
Nonresidential	132.6	112.5	113.8	127.3	121.8	114.4	110.6	110.1	110.5	112.6	114.9
Residential	48.4	36.1	44.9	43.9	39.3	35.4	36.8	39.6	41.9	44.1	45.7
Change in business inventories	10.4	20.8	10.8	5.1	8.0	-20.5	-21.2	-1.0	-5.5	10.4	11.1
Net exports of goods and services	16.6	22.2	16.3	14.9	17.7	20.1	24.3	22.8	23.1	16.6	16.0
Exports	98.2	89.0	94.5	96.4	95.9	90.3	87.7	90.7	93.9	93.6	95.4
Imports	81.6	66.8	78.2	81.5	78.2	70.2	63.4	67.9	70.8	77.0	79.4
Government purchases of goods and services	255.8	258.1	262.8	257.1	256.9	257.1	259.1	262.4	265.2	261.9	263.6
Federal	95.0	95.0	95.7	95.8	95.4	94.8	95.3	95.6	97.2	95.4	96.0
State and local	160.8	163.0	167.2	161.3	161.5	162.2	163.8	166.9	168.0	166.6	167.7
New plant and equipment expenditures	109.34	113.52	117.93	113.99	116.22	114.57	112.46	112.16	111.80	114.72	121.14
Implicit price deflator for GNP (1972=100)	113.10	125.24	132.12	118.03	121.60	124.55	125.93	128.07	130.27	131.29	132.96
Disposable income ($bil.)	959.0	1,056.0	1,160.0	998.0	1,015.8	1,023.8	1,088.2	1,091.5	1,119.9	1,147.6	1,172.5
Disposable income (1972 $bil.)	843.6	848.8	885.4	841.7	834.0	827.9	869.7	857.1	867.5	880.4	890.5
Per capita disposable income ($)	4,533	4,956	5,401	4,705	4,779	4,809	5,102	5,105	5,227	5,347	5,455
Per capita disposable income (1972 $)	3,988	3,984	4,123	3,968	3,923	3,889	4,078	4,009	4,049	4,103	4,143
U.S. population, tot. incl. military abroad (mil.)	211.6	213.1	214.8	212.1	212.6	212.9	213.3	213.8	214.2	214.6	214.9
Civilian population (mil.)	209.3	210.9	212.6	209.9	210.4	210.7	211.1	211.6	212.1	212.5	212.8

See footnotes at end of next table.

Selected monthly indicators

Items	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
	Monthly data seasonally adjusted except as noted									
Industrial production, total[2] (1967=100)	130.4	113.7	128.2	121.0	128.1	128.4	129.6	130.0	130.7	131.4p
Manufacturing (1967=100)	130.7	111.8	128.0	119.7	127.9	128.5	129.6	130.1	131.0	131.5p
Durable (1967=100)	126.6	106.2	119.5	112.3	119.0	120.1	121.7	122.3	123.9	124.9p
Nondurable (1967=100)	136.6	119.9	140.2	130.5	140.7	140.7	140.9	141.1	141.2	141.1p
Leading economic indicators[1 3] (1967=100)	117.1	94.2	107.0	102.5	106.7	107.2	108.0	109.0	109.5	–
Employment[4] (Mil. persons)	85.9	84.4	87.0	85.3	86.7	87.4	87.7	87.5	87.9	88.0p
Unemployment rate[4] (%)	5.1	8.4	7.5	8.5	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.5	7.8	7.9p
Personal income[1] ($bil. annual rate)	1,123.2	1,216.7	1,346.6	1,267.5	1,341.9	1,352.5	1,362.9	1,370.4	1,383.4	1,389.5p
Hourly earnings in manufacturing[4 5] ($)	4.28	4.72	5.08	4.82	5.07	5.07	5.12	5.15	5.19	5.20p
Money stock (daily average)[2] ($bil.)	274.6	285.2	299.6	293.2	298.0	301.7	303.3	303.1	304.8	306.2p
Time and savings deposits (daily average)[2] ($bil.)	383.6	429.9	460.3	436.2	458.5	461.7	462.1	467.9	472.4	471.5p
Three-month Treasury bill rate[2] (%)	7.934	5.637	5.061	6.463	5.047	4.878	5.185	5.443	5,278	5.153p
Aaa corporate bond yield (Moody's)[5 6] (%)	8.13	8.79	8.54	8.95	8.52	8.40	8.58	8.62	8.56	8.45
Interest rate on new home mortgages[5 7] (%)	8.67	9.06	8.94	8.89	8.93	8.92	8.97	8.89	8.99p	–
Housing starts, private (including farm)[1] (thou.)	1,550	1,015	1,419	1,264	1,417	1,367	1,422	1,510	1,391	1,542p
Auto sales at retail, total[1] (mil.)	9.2	8.2	10.2	9.4	10.8	10.3	10.2	10.0	10.1	–
Business sales, total[1] ($bil.)	159.9	162.8	184.8	172.2	185.5	187.1	186.3	189.0	188.7p	–
Business inventories, total[1] ($bil.)	234.7	267.5	270.5	264.7	269.6	270.6	272.5	276.2	277.8p	–

[1] Department of Commerce. [2] Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. [3] Composite index of 12 leading indicators. [4] Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. [5] Not seasonally adjusted. [6] Moody's Investors Service. [7] Federal Home Loan Bank Board. p. Preliminary.

TRANSPORTATION DATA

Rail rates and grain shipments

	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Rail freight rate index[1]										
All products (1969=100)	141.4	160.8	183.9	175.6	181.2	185.4	187.1	187.4	187.4	187.5
Farm products (1969=100)	136.4	155.9	179.9	171.7	178.0	179.1	183.2	183.3	183.3	183.6
Food products (1969=100)	140.8	160.1	183.3	174.9	179.5	183.2	186.1	186.3	186.2	186.2
Rail carloadings of grain (thou. cars)[2]	28.6	22.3	24.1	30.1	24.6	20.6	21.2	28.7	30.4	28.0
Barge shipments of grain (mil. bu.)[3]	18.1	18.7	31.0	23.5	29.4	29.9	38.1	33.9	30.1	23.4

[1] Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. [2] Weekly average; from Association of American Railroads. [3] Weekly average; from Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Prices of principal U.S. agricultural trade products

Items	January-June			1975	1976					
	1974	1975	1976	Aug	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Export commodities:										
Wheat, f.o.b. Gulf ports ($/bu.)	4.93	3.93	4.02	4.37	4.18	3.99	3.87	3.99	3.87	3.47
Corn, f.o.b. Gulf ports ($/bu.)	3.07	3.12	2.96	3.46	2.91	2.85	3.04	3.14	3.16	3.00
Grain sorghum, f.o.b. Gulf ports ($/bu.)	2.72	2.92	2.79	3.44	2.83	2.70	2.79	2.78	2.85	2.77
Soybeans, f.o.b. Gulf ports ($/bu.)	6.13	5.93	5.30	6.33	4.93	4.95	5.52	6.43	7.07	6.59
Soybean oil, Decatur (cts./lb.)	30.70	27.90	16.46	28.50	16.56	16.32	15.77	17.62	20.87	20.35
Soybean meal, Decatur ($/ton)	134.25	120.93	142.66	134.40	127.90	127.10	152.25	187.90	193.90	173.30
Cotton, 10 market avg. spot (cts./lb.)	63.97	39.21	60.27	48.40	55.47	57.18	62.07	72.74	78.73	73.25
Tobacco, avg. price of auction (cts./lb.)	87.80	105.70	100.63	99.40	100.50	100.70	100.90	100.90	98.70	108.70
Rice, f.o.b. mill, Houston ($/cwt.)	33.31	22.32	17.33	21.40	17.10	17.00	17.00	16.60	16.40	15.50
Inedible tallow, Chicago (cts./lb.)	17.30	11.13	13.20	13.12	13.60	13.00	12.94	13.50	14.03	13.50
Import commodities:										
Coffee, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	72.12	70.55	123.30	93.50	110.00	124.00	141.90	148.10	148.30	145.00
Sugar, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	19.40	27.67	15.45	21.11	16.27	15.58	15.97	14.40	14.59	11.32
Cow meat, f.o.b. port of entry (cts./lb.)	78.40	56.08	75.27	58.93	77.43	81.75	80.55	72.49	69.41	71.88
Rubber, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	47.00	29.40	38.09	30.90	37.72	38.40	40.70	42.70	40.70	40.65
Cocoa beans, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	92.40	75.40	86.40	78.30	75.70	87.60	96.30	107.00	107.00	114.20
Bananas, f.o.b. port of entry ($/40-lb. box)	3.13	4.62	4.79	3.68	4.92	n.a.	5.07	4.80	4.69	4.82
Canned Danish hams, ex-warehouse N.Y. ($/lb.)	1.36	1.60	1.76	1.85	1.78	1.76	1.70	1.68	1.68	1.72
Quantity Indices										
Export (1967=100)	164	149	172	120	174	180	170	167	161	n.a.
Import (1967=100)	126	116	142	144	156	142	129	154	135	n.a.
Unit Value Indices										
Export (1967=100)	215	229	204	209	203	203	205	205	210	n.a.
Import (1967=100)	179	231	202	201	195	202	215	222	n.a.	n.a.

n.a. not available.

Trade balance

Items	July-June		July	
	1974/75	1975/76	1975	1976
	$ Mil.			
Agricultural exports[1]	21,578	22,146	1,532	1,799
Nonagricultural exports[2]	82,171	88,462	6,703	7,527
Total exports[2]	103,749	110,608	8,235	9,326
Agricultural imports[3]	9,579	10,108	762	958
Nonagricultural imports[4]	92,054	96,494	7,220	9,693
Total imports[4]	101,633	106,602	7,892	10,651
Agricultural trade balance	11,999	12,038	770	841
Nonagricultural trade balance	-9,883	-8,032	-517	-2,166
Total trade balance	2,116	4,006	253	-1,325

[1] Domestic exports including Department of Defense shipments, (F.A.S. value). [2] Domestic and foreign exports excluding Department of Defense shipments, (F.A.S. value). [3] Imports for consumption (customs value). [4] General imports, (customs value).

U.S. agricultural exports by regions

Region[1]	July-June		July		Change from year-earlier	
	1974/75	1975/76	1975	1976	July-June 1975/76	July 1976
	$ Mil.				Pct.	
Western Europe	6,939	7,171	426	490	+3	+15
Enlarged European Community	5,316	5,764	366	389	+8	+6
Other Western Europe	1,623	1,407	60	100	-13	+68
Eastern Europe and USSR	983	2,581	90	184	+163	+104
USSR	396	1,864	58	104	+371	+78
Eastern Europe	587	717	32	80	+22	+152
Asia	8,238	7,159	597	697	-13	+17
West Asia	1,583	796	93	94	-50	+1
South Asia	1,229	1,111	118	92	-10	-22
Southeast Asia, ex. Japan and PRC	1,913	1,949	149	193	+2	+30
Japan	3,185	3,300	238	318	+4	+34
Peoples Republic of China	328	2	—	—	-99	—
Latin America	2,404	2,129	170	175	-11	+3
Canada, exlcuding transshipments	1,285	1,400	116	117	+9	+1
Canadian transhipments	476	507	28	17	+7	-40
Africa	1,129	1,087	100	109	-4	+9
North Africa	735	695	68	62	-5	-10
Other Africa	394	392	32	47	-1	+49
Oceania	125	113	6	9	-10	+49
Total[2]	21,578	22,147	1,532	1,799	+3	+17

[1] Not adjusted for transshipments. [2] Totals may not add due to rounding.

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